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MAY 2021

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Current Affairs Pocket PDF – May 2021

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ENVIRONMENT 115

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

CABINET APPROVALS

Cabinet Approved Strategic Disinvestment, Management Control Transfer in IDBI Bank

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in Industrial Development Bank of India (**IDBI Bank**).

- ❖ More than 94 percent of the equity of IDBI Bank was owned by the Government of India (45.48 percent) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) which holds 49.24 percent.
- ❖ Currently, IDBI Bank has LIC as its Management Controller and promoter of the bank with GoI as the co-promoter.
- Headquarters of IDBI -Mumbai, Maharashtra

Cabinet Approvals on May 5, 2021

On May 5, 2021, the Union Cabinet gave approval for several initiatives. They are

- ❖ Additional food grain under Phase-III of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) for another 2 months – May to June 2021. Each beneficiary will get 5 Kg of food grains per month for free of cost.
- ❖ Ex-post facto approval to the signing of the MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs, India & Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of UK on Global Innovation Partnership (GIP). Approval to MoU between India & UK on Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP).
- ❖ Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between India & UK.

Cabinet Approvals on May 12, 2021

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved several initiatives. They are

1.Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme – 'National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage' with an Total Outlay of INR 18, 100 Crore.

2.Transfer of Land of ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police) at Mussoorie to Government of Uttarakhand for Aerial Passenger Ropeway System.

3.Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) & Qatar Financial Centre Authority…Click here for detailed info...

Cabinet Approvals on May 25, 2021

On May 25, 2021, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted approval to several key initiatives.

- Two Institutes namely Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICoAI) & Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) had signed MoUs with various Foreign Countries/Organizations.
- Creation of the post of Director in Senior Administrative Grade (SAG), at National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Academy in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- Opening of a New Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives in 2021. It is India's 1st Consulate in Maldives.

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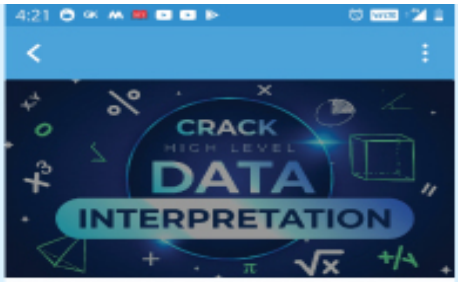

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Paths Quizzes Details

Memory Based Question

SBI PO

IBPS PO

IBPS Clerk

Percentage

PO Mains Level

DI: Percentage - PO - Hard - M237
Quiz (5 question) RESULT

DI: Percentage - PO - Moderate - M176
Quiz (5 question) START

Clerk Mains Level

DI: Percentage - Clerk - Moderate - M366
Quiz (5 question) START

DI: Percentage - Clerk - Moderate - M118
Quiz (5 question) RESUME

Percentage & Ratio-Proportion

Percentage & Time,Speed,Distance

Percentage & Average

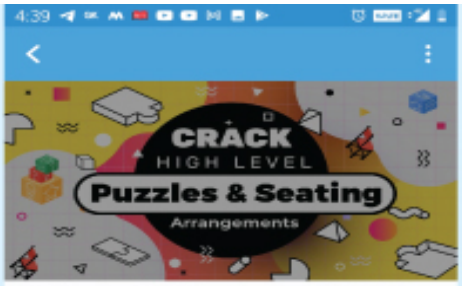
Ratio-Proportion

Ratio-Proportion and Mixture & Alligation

Arithmetic

Average

Profit & Loss



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Paths Quizzes Details

Memory Based Question

SBI PO

IBPS PO

IBPS Clerk

Puzzles

Tabular Puzzles

PO Mains Level

Puzzle: Tabular - PO - Easy - R109
Quiz (5 question) START

Clerk Mains Level

Puzzle: Tabular - Clerk - Moderate - R130
Quiz (5 question) START

Floor Puzzle

Floor with Flat Puzzle

Quantity Puzzle

Shifting/Matrix Puzzle

Memory Based Question

Seating Arrangement

Linear Seating

Circular Seating

Parallel Row Seating

Square Seating

PARLIAMENT NEWS

Govt. Amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme

Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI),1976 was amended & named it as Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance (Amendment) Scheme, 2021.

Amended under - section, 6C read with sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952).

Maximum sum – was increased from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 7 lakh.

CBIC notifies Customs Amendment Rules, 2021

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs **(CBIC)** has notified the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021 to boost Trade Facilitation. It amends the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017 (IGCR, 2017). Imported goods to be sent out for 'job work'. This facility was absent in the previous act.

Importers without manufacturing facilities can avail the IGCR, 2017 to import goods at concessional Customs duty. However, this facility is not applicable for sectors like gold, jewellery, precious stones and metals have been excluded from using this facility.

STATEWISE NATIONAL NEWS

Andhra Pradesh

AP Partners with Essar Steel to set up Steel Plant in Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh (AP) selected Essar Steel as Joint Venture (JV) partner to set up a steel plant in Kadapa district.

- The AP government has previously selected Liberty Steel India Limited as the JV partner for construction and development of the YSR Steel Plant in Kadapa.
- But that was cancelled based on the recommendation of SBICAP as Liberty steel India Limited was facing some financial issues.

Andhra Pradesh Govt Plans to Begin CLAP Scheme

Andhra Pradesh government plans to launch Clean Andhra Pradesh (CLAP) Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam programme on July 8,2021 to commemorate the birth anniversary of former late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy.

- Under the CLAP program, the Municipal Administration division will work along with the Panchayat Raj division for sanitation in villages and cities and at first, a 100-days State-wide sanitation drive was set to be initiated.

Andhra Pradesh FM presents INR 2.29 Lakh Crore Budget for FY 2021-22

Andhra Pradesh Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy presented the State Budget for the FY 2021-22 with an outlay of INR 2.29 Lakh Crore.The state's public debt is expected to increase to INR 3, 87, 125 Crore in 2021-22 from INR 3, 55, 874 Crore in FY 2020-21.Estimated Revenue – INR 1.77 Lakh Crore.

Assam

Assam , 1st Indian state to adopt an Online flood reporting system

Jishnu Barua, Chief Secretary, Assam launched a real-time Digital – Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS) and became the 1st state in India to adopt an online flood reporting system.

Developed by - Assam State Disaster Management Agency(ASDMA) and United Nations Children's Fund(UNICEF).

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Objective: To capture critical impact indicators during floods as the state is facing a deluge (severe flood) every year.

Bihar

IAS Officer Tripurari Sharan appointed as Chief Secretary of Bihar

Senior IAS Officer Tripurari Sharan has been appointed as Chief Secretary of Bihar.
He will serve only for a period of two months.He succeeds Arun Kumar Singh who died of Covid-19.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh launches new scheme for education of orphans due to COVID-19

Scheme name - 'Chhattisgarh Mahtari Dular Yojna'
Aim of launching - Chhattisgarh government Launched this new scheme to help education for children who lost their parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Prashant Kumar Mishra Appointed As Chief Justice Of Chhattisgarh High Court

Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra has been appointed acting Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court and will take charge from June 1, 2021.The appointment was made in view of the impending retirement of Justice PR Ramachandra Menon who is set to demit office on May 31, 2021.

- ✓ **Name of the award** - "Pranvayu" will be given to people who take the initiative to plant saplings and award for the winners selected from each district will be given by the chief minister.

Gujarat

NTPC Renewable Energy Signs PPA with GUVNL

NTPC Renewable Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Electricity Generator – National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC Ltd) signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with state-run power utility Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL).

- ❖ As per the agreement NTPC Renewable Energy will sell power from its upcoming 150 megawatt (MW) solar project in Gujarat to GUVNL at Rs 2.20/unit.
- ❖ It was established in October, 2020 with the purpose of developing Renewable Energy (RE) projects.

Gujarat Launched 'My Village – Corona Free Village' Campaign

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM), Vijay Rupani Launched 15 day long 'Maru Gam – Corona Mukt Gam' or 'My Village – Corona Free Village' campaign on May 1, 2021 to check the spread of Covid-19 in rural areas of Gujarat.

Gujarat Governor approves to Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat gave his assent to the 'Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021', which **provides imprisonment of up to 10 years for fraudulent/forcible conversion by marriage**. Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2021 replaces the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003.

Haryana

Haryana became first state to reimburse GST on Covid-related donations

Haryana became the first state in the country to reimburse Goods and services tax (GST) paid on Covid-related donations made to the state and state-run organisations. This will be applicable till June 30.

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Objective: To encourage efforts by corporations, NGOs and individuals in facilitating donations of oxygen concentrators, Covid-19 vaccines, Remdesivir injections, etc.

Haryana launches 'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' Home Care Initiative to treat COVID-19

'Sanjeevani Pariyojana' launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to provide for supervised and quick medical care at home for people in rural areas with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19.

- ✓ The pilot project is supported by Deloitte, and the implementation of the initiative will begin from Karnal district.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh initiates 'Parvat Dhara Yojana'

Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has initiated 'Parvat Dhara Yojana' to revive, recharge aquifers (underground layer which contains water) and conserve natural resources of water in the state.

Aim - Improving the water level by retaining water for a maximum period of time.

An outlay of INR 20 Crore has been set aside for implementation of the scheme.Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh will implement the scheme in forest areas.

Himachal P launched COVID-19 Helpline 1100

Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister(CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP) launched a dedicated COVID-19 helpline "Mukhyamantri Sewa Sanklap Helpline 1100" in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

The helpline is aimed to support the people regarding the COVID-19 related issues.

This helpline was an effort of the Information Technology Department of Himachal Pradesh.

AYUSH Dept Launched Wellness Programme for COVID-19 in Himachal Pradesh

"AYUSH Ghar Dwar" a statewide wellness programme for COVID-19 patients in Himachal Pradesh was launched by Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH).

Inaugurated by - Dr Rajiv Saizal, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Himachal Pradesh from Sloan District, Himachal Pradesh.

Aim - To reduce the burden of a pandemic by enhancing recovery rate, Equitable healthcare facility and ensuring rehabilitation post COVID-19 infection.

Madhya Pradesh

Vaidya Aapke Dwar' Scheme Launched in MP

Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy(AYUSH) launched the "**Vaidya Aapke Dwar**" scheme in Madhya Pradesh(MP).Through this scheme ,free medical consultation is given at home through live video call by AYUSH medical specialists.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra CM Introduced "Mission Oxygen" to Combat 3rd Wave of COVID-19

Maharashtra Chief Minister(CM) Uddhav Thackeray introduced "Mission Oxygen" to combat the third wave of COVID-19. The state government is working towards increasing India's Oxygen producing capacity to combat the 3rd wave of the COVID-19 infection. The cabinet of Maharashtra has sanctioned special incentives to industrial units under the Maharashtra Mission Oxygen Swavalamban.

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Maharashtra Allocates 50 Acres of Land in Sindhudurg to Establish NIMP

Cabinet of Maharashtra chaired by Uddhav Thackeray ,CM of Maharashtra approved the proposal to allocate 50 Acres of land in the district of Sindhudurg to establish the **National Institute of Medicinal Plants (NIMP).**

NIMP - a one-stop center for all the needs related to medicinal plants.

The allocated land located in the Aadali village of Dodamarg taluka will be handed over to the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy(AYUSH).

Maharashtra Government launched a mission to tackle oxygen shortage

'Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance' scheme was launched recently by the Maharashtra Government to address the state's oxygen shortage. Under this scheme, special incentives will be provided by the state government for the oxygen producing industries.It seeks to increase the state's current oxygen generation capacity of 1,300 MT per day to 3,000 MT oxygen per day.

Odisha

Odisha announces Manoj Das International Literary Award

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced 'Manoj Das International Literary Award' in memory of eminent litterateur, Padma awardee Manoj Das, who died on April 27.

This award will be conferred on litterateurs from Odisha for their creative contribution to English literature and also announced a memorial 'Manmath-Manoj Memorial' at Sankhari village in Balasore district.

Puducherry

Puducherry Becomes 4th 'Har Ghar Jal' State/ UT

Puducherry has become 'Har Ghar Jal' Union Territory by achieving the target of 100% piped water connection in rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).With this, Puducherry becomes 2nd 'Har Ghar Jal UT and the fourth State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home.

Punjab

Punjab set to become 1st Indian state to join Global COVAX Alliance

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh informed that Punjab is set to become the 1st Indian state to join the Global COVAX (COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access) Alliance. It will help Punjab to address the Anti-Covid-19 vaccine shortage & to procure s at the best price. The Punjab Cabinet has approved the 'Punjab Prison Rules, 2021' under the Prisons Act, 1894. It will replace the Punjab Jail Manual, 1996.

Malerkotla becomes 23rd District of Punjab

Amarinder Singh Chief Minister of Punjab announced Malerkotla as the 23rd district of Punjab. The district was created by carving the only Muslim majority town from Sangrur district.The formation of the new district was announced during the state level event on Eid-ul-Fitr.

Punjab Announced 'Corona Mukt Pind Abhiyaan'

Chief Minister of Punjab, Amarinder Singh announced a distinct COVID Fateh programme as part of the **'Corona Mukt Pind Abhiyaan'(corona-free village drive)** to manage the spread of COVID-19 in the rural areas of Punjab.

Objective - This program is to establish health and wellness clinics to spread awareness about the COVID-19 among the village people.

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Rajasthan

Rajasthan Govt. renames the 'Miyon ka Bara' Railway Station

The Miyon ka Bara railway station has been renamed to Mahesh Nagar in Jodhpur, Rajasthan after getting an approval. Prior to this, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had approved and changed the name of the village from Miyon ka Bara to Mahesh Nagar and conveyed the decision to the Rajasthan government in 2018.

Tamil Nadu

Irai Anbu Appointed as Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu; 4 Secretaries to assist CM

TamilNadu Government under Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK) Leadership appointed senior IAS officer V. Irai Anbu as the **Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu(TN)**.He is replacing Rajeev Ranjan.

- He was an additional chief secretary/director of Anna Institute of Management and director-general of Training.

In 2017, Irai Anbu received the S.P. Adithanar Literary Award from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Tripura

Education Minister of Tripura launched first of its Kind Auro Scholarship Programme

Ratan Lal Nath, Education Minister of Tripura launched the first of its kind Auro Scholarship Programme of Sri Aurobindo Society to all the students of Tripura. The programme was launched at the virtual event organised by the Sri Aurobindo Society.

- Auro Scholar is the World's first Micro Scholarship programme aimed to encourage the students to improve their learning.
- Auro Scholarship Programme, working through the Auro Scholar App.

Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Police Launched 'Mission Hausla' To Help Covid-19 Patients

Uttarakhand police launched a drive "Mission Hausla" to help people COVID-19 patients to get oxygen, beds and plasma. The police are also supporting the people to get ration and help them with ambulance service, cremation of bodies as a part of the mission.The police of Uttarakhand have also availed 2 toll free numbers 112 and 9411112701 for emergency contact.

West Bengal

West Bengal Cabinet Approves to Implement Three welfare Schemes

West Bengal (WB) Cabinet headed by Mamata Banerjee approved 3 Welfare projects and will be implemented by Committees headed by Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay.The new three projects are

- ✓ Lakshmi Bhandar Project,
- ✓ Student Credit Card Initiative, and
- ✓ 'Duare Ration' home delivery of ration scheme.

LAUNCHES & INAUGURATION

Indian Army Inaugurates its 1st Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant

1st Green Solar Energy Harnessing Plant of 56 KVA (KiloVolt-Ampere) using Vanadium based battery Technology inaugurated in North Sikkim.

- The project has been completed in collaboration with IIT Mumbai.

Targets -India Targets 175 GW Renewable Energy by 2022 and also set a target to achieve 450 GW renewable energy by 2030.

Nirmala Sitharaman Virtually Inaugurated India's 1st 3D Printed House at IIT-M

Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated India's 1st 3D printed house at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
TVASTA Manufacturing Solutions, a start-up founded by IIT-M alumni in association with Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Centre for Innovation in Shelter built the 3D Printed House.

IIT Kanpur's SIIC team Launched 'Mission Bharat O2'

Mission Name – 'Mission Bharat O2' challenge
Launched by - Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.
Aim - To develop indigenous solutions for solving India's oxygen crisis.

- SIIC aims to support innovative minds of India to set up more than 20,000 oxygen generation units and work with a set of manufacturers in different regions of India with a target production capacity of 100 units per day.

Small hydro power plant with Indian assistance inaugurated in Nepal

A **small hydro power plant** at Chandannath Municipality in Nepal's Jumla district was virtually inaugurated.

- It was newly rehabilitated with India's financial assistance of Nepali Rs 26.39 million (INR 1.64 Crore).
- Indian financial assistance was given under 'Nepal-Bharat Development Cooperation'.

Indian Army Launched a new Operation to aid anti-Covid-19

Operation name – 'CO-JEET' stands for Co-workers of the three forces who could obtain 'Jeet' (victory) over COVID.
Aim - To support anti-COVID-19 efforts of the country.
Lieutenant General Dr.Madhuri Kanitkar is monitoring the steps & working of the operation. She is the 3rd woman to become a three-star general in the armed forces behind Punita Arora(1st) & Padmavathy Bandopadhyay(2nd).

National Bamboo Mission launches MIS Module to boost Agarbatti Industry my Launched a new

National Bamboo Mission (NBM) has launched an MIS Module (Management Information Systems) for strengthening the domestic Agarbatti Industry. The module will collect data on Agarbatti stick production, location of stick making units, availability of raw material, functioning of units, production capacity, marketing etc.

Agriculture Ministry allocates fund for Horticulture sector

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has allocated INR 2250 Crore for the FY 2021-22 for 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture' (MIDH), a centrally sponsored scheme. It aims at developing the Horticulture sector in the FY 2021-22.
During the FY 2019-20, India recorded its highest ever horticulture production of 320.77 Million Tonnes (MT) from an area of 25.66 million hectares.

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Govt. Launches Innovation Challenge for Creating Indian Language Learning App

MyGov, the citizen engagement platform of the Government of India & **Department of Higher Education(DHE)** jointly launched an Innovation Challenge for creating an **Indian Language Learning App**.

Highlights - created an app to promote regional language literacy, thereby creating greater cultural understanding within the country. This application will enable individuals to learn simple sentences of any Indian language and acquire working knowledge of a language.

NCPCR Launched Tele-counselling to Provide Mental Support for Children against Covid-19

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) under Ministry of Women and Child Development launched Tele-Counselling to provide psychological first-aid and emotional support to children who are manly affected during COVID 19 through Toll-Free Helpline.

Name of helpline –' SAMVEDNA' Toll-Free Helpline(1800-121-2830).**SAMVEDNA** stands for Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance.

Social Justice Ministry Virtually Launched 1st of its Kind CBID Program on Rehabilitation

First of its kind 6- month Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan (Persons with Disabilities) was launched by Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Purpose - Program will create trained manpower in identifying risk cases, apprising the parents/guardians about the nearest early intervention centers, and guiding them for availing Government benefits for Persons with Disabilities.

India's 1st City-wide Environmental Surveillance Platform for COVID-19 launched in Bengaluru

Karnataka Government has launched India's 1st and 1st of its kind in Asia **City-wide Environmental Surveillance Platform named 'Precision Health Platform'** in Bengaluru. It is a city-wide sewage surveillance system which will help officials track COVID-19 at an early stage and make preparations to face it.

Partners – United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and the Skoll Foundation-supported COVID Action Collaborative (**CAC – COVIDAction Collab**) will be the partners for the initiative.

OTHER NATIONAL NEWS

India's Crude Oil Production & Natural Gas Production fell down in FY21

As per the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas **(MoPNG)**,

Crude oil production of India fell by 5% to 30.5 million tonnes in FY21 from 32.17 million tonnes in 2019-2020.

Natural Gas production fell by 8% to 28.67 billion cubic metres(BCM) in FY21 from around 31BCM in FY20.

Petroleum products production fell by 11.2% at 233.4 million tonnes.

Centre Allocates INR 15,000 Crore to States for Capital Expenditure

An additional amount of INR 15,000 crore set to provide under 'Scheme of Financial Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' to State Governments by Ministry of Finance.

- ❖ It provided as Interest free 50-year loan for spending on Capital projects for the FY 2021-22.
- ❖ Aim - To spend more on **infrastructure and incentivize disinvestment** of State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs).

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It includes funding for creation, acquisition of capital assets like infrastructure, construction

French Firm Alstom delivers 100th Electric Locomotive to Indian Railways

Alstom, a French multinational rolling stock manufacturer successfully manufactured 100th Electric Locomotive at Madhepura plant in Bihar and delivered it to Indian Railways.The plant is India's largest integrated greenfield manufacturing facility.

- It is part of the **3.5 Billion Euro (~ INR 25,000 Crore)** contract signed in 2015 for delivery of 800 fully electric high-powered double-section locomotives of 12,000 HorsePower (HP) (9 MW).
- It is the Largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Project in the Indian Railway sector.

JSW Energy made PPA with Solar Energy Corporation of India

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Signed b/w - JSW Renew Energy, and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)

Purpose - for supplying 540 MegaWatt (MW) of blended wind power capacity.

India has set a target to raise the capacity of installed Renewable Energy (RE) generation plants to 450 GW by 2030.

India set Food grains Production target at 307 Million Tonnes for 2021-22

During the virtual event of '**The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2021'**, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has informed that Food grains production target for the crop year 2021-22 at 307 Million Tonnes (MT) and the same was 301.92 MT in the FY2020-21.

- **Season wise target** – 151.43 MT in Kharif season & 155.88 MT during Rabi season.
- As per Economic Survey 2020-21, the share of Agriculture in GDP increased to 19.9% in 2020-21 (from 17.8% in 2019-20).

Government Sets Road Construction Worth INR 15 Lakh Crore as Target

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has stated that the Government has set a target of road construction of worth INR 15 Lakh Crore in the next 2 years.

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is set to achieve its target of constructing highways (Road) of 40 Kms per day in FY 2021-22.
- The Government has also permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the road sector.

Dharmendra Pradhan flags off 1st supply of Used Cooking Oil-based Biodiesel

The first supply of UCO (Used Cooking Oil) based Biodiesel blended Diesel has been inaugurated at IndianOil's Tikrikalan Terminal, Delhi.

Launched by - Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan

It is part of the Expression of Interests (EoI) scheme.This scheme has been initiated for 'Procurement of Biodiesel produced from UCO' on the occasion of World Biofuel Day (10th August) in 2019.

Target - India has set a target to achieve 5% blending of Biodiesel in Diesel by 2030.

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India notifies Digital Tax Threshold for Non-Resident Technology Firms

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified Digital Tax Threshold for Non-Resident Technology firms like Google, Facebook, Netflix to pay tax in India. The Thresholds are

Transaction Threshold – Any non-resident whose revenue exceeds INR 2 Crore for transactions in respect of goods, services or property with any person in India. It includes transactions on download of data or software.

User Threshold – Any entity that systematically and continuously does business with more than 3 Lakh users in India.

581 Sites Identified for Medical Oxygen Plant Installation

Union Minister of Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced the installation of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen plants in various states.

- Around 581 sites have been identified by the Government for setting up additional PSA medical oxygen plants.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), will act as the nodal agency for executing civil and electrical work of the medical oxygen plants.

First Electric Tractor in India Tested

India's first-ever electric tractor has been tested.

Location - Central Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (CFMTTI), Budni, Madhya Pradesh (MP).

- This new electric tractor will be more environmentally friendly than other types of tractors.
- CFMTTI works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- This institute has received NABL Certificate of Accreditation for CMVR Test Laboratory on 30th March, 2021.

Labour Ministry notifies Section 142 of Social Security Code, 2020

Ministry of Labor and Employment notified Section 142 of the Code on Social Security, 2020, to collect Aadhaar data of unorganized sector workers for its national database.

- Ministry is now mandated to obtain a **12-digit unique identification Aadhaar detail** from employees and unorganized sector workers who wish to register, avail benefits, or to receive any payment under various schemes under the Social Security Code 2020.
- The Aadhar details will be uploaded in the National Database for Unorganised Workers (**NDUW)** which is being developed by National Informatics Centre (**NIC**).
- The **Social Security Code, 2020** is yet to be implemented in India and the rules designed under it have not been notified.

DOT Permits TSPs to Conduct 5G Trials in India

The Department of Telecommunications **(DoT)**, Ministry of Communications has permitted the telecom service providers (TSPs) including Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio Infocomm, Vodafone Idea, and MTNL to conduct the 5G trial in India.

- The TSPs have tied up with the original equipment manufacturers and technology providers like Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung, and the C-DoT. These trials will be on a non-commercial basis.
- The operators are permitted to use their existing spectrums for the (800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2500 MHz) 5G trial.

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100th 12000 HP WAG 12 B Locomotive inducted in Indian Railways

Indian Railways inducted its 100th 12000 HP WAG 12 B locomotive manufactured by Madhepura Electric Locomotive Private Limited (MELPL), one of India's largest integrated greenfield manufacturing facilities & produced under the Make in India programme. The number of the locomotive, WAG 12 B is 60100.

IIT Madras, MPFI partner to boost Digital Money Transactions

Tie up b/w - Researchers of Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) & members of Mobile Payment Forum of India (MPFI).

Purpose - To boost digital money transactions in India.The two entities will develop voice-based solutions, especially in multiple vernacular languages to enable larger adoption of transactions in India. The collaboration is part of MPFI's efforts to achieve 500 million active Unified Payments Interface (UPI) users in India by 2025.

MoEFCC notifies area around TCFS , Thane as Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)

48.32 Sq.km area around the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary **(TCFS)**, Thane, Maharashtra was declared as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

Declared by - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

It is the 2nd marine sanctuary of Maharashtra after Malvan Sanctuary, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra.

MoAFW Formulated Strategy To Achieve Self Sufficiency In Pulses

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare(MoAFW) formulated a special Kharif strategy for implementation in the ensuing Kharif 2021 season to attain self-sufficiency in the production of pulses. For the 2021 Kharif season more than 20 lakh seed mini kits, 10 times more than 2020-2021, amounting to around Rs. 82 crores are proposed to be distributed.

Japan, UNDP India Joins to Boost Oxygen Supply in India's NE Region

Government of Japan & United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India have partnered to provide oxygen generation plants to the North Eastern (NE) Region in India. The entities will procure and install 8 Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) oxygen generation plants in the states of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura.

Real Estate Fund SWAMIH will benefit Home Buyers

Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that the Real Estate Fund – 'Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) Investment Fund I' will benefit 1.16 lakh home loan borrowers, whose housing projects were stalled due to funding issues. 'Rivali Park Wintergreens' in Mumbai, Maharashtra was the 1st housing project in India to receive funding under the SWAMIH Fund.

EAC allows Great Nicobar Plan to Advance

Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) – Infrastructure I of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recommended NITI Aayog's project 'Great Nicobar Plan' for "for grant of Terms Of Reference (TOR)" for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)

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studies. This project was proposed by NITI Aayog, it aims to promote holistic development of Greater Nicobar with an estimated cost of INR 75, 000 Crores.

US to help India for the Target of 450 GW of RE by 2030

United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry informed that US will provide finance and technological assistance to India on climate change to achieve the target of deploying 450 GigaWatts (GW) of Renewable Energy by 2030.

John Kerry is the 1st American climate change envoy with cabinet rank.India is the 3rd CO2 emitter after China, USA.

Dept. of Economic Affairs, NDB Organized a seminar on Social Infrastructure Financing

Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and the New Development Bank jointly organized a virtual seminar on Social Infrastructure Financing and the use of Digital Technologies, as a part of the Economic and Financial Cooperation Agenda under the Indian BRICS Chairship 2021.

India's 1st Agriculture Export Facilitation Center launched in Pune

Agriculture Export Facilitation Center (AEFC) will help in boosting agricultural and food exports to enhance the Global Standards and will act as a one-stop-shop for the export of agri-food productions.India's First AEFC was virtually inaugurated by Dr G.R. Chintala, Chairman of NABARDin Pune,Maharashtra.

Launched by - Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industries & Agriculture (MCCIA) in partnership with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

India's Target in Agriculture Exports – The export of agriculture is targeted at USD 60 Billion by 2022.

India & Mongolia renew Cultural Exchange Program until 2023

India's Minister of State for Culture & Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel & Mongolia's Minister of Culture, Chinbat Nomin, renewed the **Cultural Exchange Program (CEP)** between the two countries until 2023. The CEP was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mongolia in May, 2015. India's Culture Ministry is set to complete reprinting of 100 sets of Sacred Mongolian Kanjur by 2022 for distribution in Mongolia.

World's 1st Private Digital Court for Dispute Resolution has been developed

'Jupitice Justice Technologies', a Chandigarh-based startup has developed World's 1st Private Digital Court(powered by Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence).It developed to resolve disputes under the Private Justice System through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (**ADR**).

It allows parties involved in disputes to conduct arbitration, conciliation or mediation without the help of an administering body.

Karnataka ranks 1st in establishing HWCs under Ayushman Bharat Scheme

Karnataka has been ranked as the Number One state in establishing a Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) under the Ayushman Bharat project for the year 2020-21, it was stated by Karnataka's Health & Family Welfare Department. HWCs are established to provide comprehensive primary healthcare in rural areas.

Jharkhand tops in Implementation of Smart City Projects: MoHUA

Jharkhand has clinched the 1st Position among the 36 States & UTs of India based on the progress of implementation of Smart City projects, Rajasthan came second in the rankings.

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Ranking list released by - Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**) based on factors like smart city plan implementation, ongoing work and tendering process, utilisation of funds and provision of utility certificates to the Central Government.

Six Places added to India's Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture **Prahlad Singh Patel** stated that 6 places have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCOs (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage sites. The sites were proposed by the Archaeological Survey of India (**ASI).**

6 sites are :- **Maratha Military Architecture**-Maharashtra, **Temples of Kanchipuram**-Tamil Nadu, **Satpura Tiger Reserve**-Madhya Pradesh, **Hire Benkal Megalithic Site**- Karnataka, **Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat** in Narmada Valley (referred as Grand Canyon of India)Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, **Ganga Ghats** , the Iconic Riverfront of the Historic City of Varanasi -Uttar Pradesh.

MHA extends FCRA registration for NGOs

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the validity of registration certificates granted to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) under the Section 50 of **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA**), **2010** until September 30, 2021 due to restrictions imposed in view of COVID-19.MHA has also issued an order stating that NGOs have to open an 'FCRA account' at State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch (SBI NDMB) before June 30, 2021.

Ministry of Social Justice: ELDERLINE – Helpline for senior citizens

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has started state-wise call centers under the **ELDERLINE** project to address the difficulties faced by the elders due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The elderly can reach the call centers through the **toll-free number – 14567.** The project Elderline was started with the support of TATA trust and the NSE foundation.

Average Monthly Income for Workers fell by 17% during Pandemic

Report name -'State of Working India 2021: One Year of COVID-19'

Released by - Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment (CSE),Karnataka.

Highlights - Monthly earnings of workers fell on an average by 17% due to COVID-19, self-employed and informal salaried workers faced the highest loss of earnings. 2021 Report analyses the impact of one year of COVID-19 on employment, incomes, inequality and poverty.The State of Working India is an annual report of the Central for Sustainable Employment (CSE), it conducts research in areas of work, labour, and employment.

Finance Ministry : New rules for increasing FDI in Insurance Sector

Ministry of Finance notified the new **Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules, 2021** which increases the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the Insurance sector to 74% from the existing 49%.The new rule has amended the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Rules, 2015. According to the new norms, Majority of board members, Key Management Persons (KMP) need to be resident Indian citizens, as should be at least one of the 3 top positions – Chairperson of the board, the MD and CEO.

Finance Minister Released the 'CCI Journal on Competition Law and Policy'

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs released the 'CCI Journal on Competition Law and Policy' at the virtual event which was organized to commemorate the **12th founding day of the Competition Commission of India(CCI).** CCI was established under the Competition Act, 2002 on 20th May 2009.She also released the Competition Advocacy Booklets of CCI, translated into Bengali, Marathi and Tamil.

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Supreme Court's e-Committee releases manual for 'e-Courts Services Mobile App'

The e-Committee of the Supreme Court has released a manual detailing about the features of its free '**e-Court Services mobile application'** in 14 regional languages for the general public to easily understand.

- ✓ **Justice Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Judge, Supreme Court of India** and the Chairperson of e-Committee has written the foreword of the manual.

TRIFED, NITI Aayog partner to Implement Van Dhan Vikas Kendra in 39 Tribal Districts

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (**TRIFED**) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs is set to partner with NITI Aayog to implement Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) initiative under Van Dhan Yojna in 39 Tribal aspirational districts.

- ✓ Van Dhan tribal start-ups or VDVK is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate the creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes.

Cheetah to be re-introduced into India at Kuno National Park, MP

Cheetah was declared as extinct in India in 1952 is set to be re-introduced into India in November, 2021 at the **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh (MP).** It is the 1st time in the world that a large carnivore will be relocated from one continent to another.

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) has approved a budget of INR 1, 400 Lakh for the 2021 Fiscal under 'Project Cheetah'.

Government of India Opened Up the Import of Pulses

Government of India has opened up the import of pulses like tur (arhar), moong and urad pulses after the Ministry of Commerce has amended the import coverage of these 3 pulses by transferring them from restricted to open category. This is aimed to increase the availability of pulses and to sustain the price rise.

Ministry of Power to set up a National Mission on the use of Biomass in Thermal Power Plants

Ministry of Power is set to establish a National Mission on the use of Biomass in coal-based Thermal Power Plants. It will address the issue of air pollution caused by farm stubble burning and reducing carbon footprints of thermal power generation.

Targets - It will help India's energy transition & India's Clear energy targets (450 Gigawatts of Renewable Energy by 2030).

India's 1st Research Reactor on PPP Model to be set up

India's 1st Radioisotope Production (reactor) and processing facility complex will be built on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model by Department of Atomic Energy (**DAE**). It will be the 1st of its kind PPP in the world. It will be designed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (**BARC**) and constructed by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (**NPCIL)**, a subsidiary of DAE.

India's Foodgrain production to rise by 2.66% in 2020-21

3rd Advance Estimates of production of major agricultural crops for 2020-21 estimates the total food grains production in India is risen by 2.66% to a record 305.44 Million Tonnes (MT) in 2020-21.

Estimation Released by - Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (**DAC & FW**).

Mohali International Hockey Stadium was Renamed by Punjab Govt.

Punjab's Mohali International Hockey Stadium officially renamed as **Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium** after the Hockey player Padma Shri Balbir Singh Senior by Government of Punjab**.**

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India, New Zealand hold 3rd Foreign Office Consultations virtually

3rd Foreign Office Consultations held between India & New Zealand virtually and agreed to step up engagement in areas like Defence and Security, trade and investment, space, counterterrorism, cyber security, disarmament and climate change, and strengthening people-to-people ties.

Participants - Riva Ganguly Das, **Secretary (East) led the Indian side**, while Mark Sinclair, Deputy Secretary, Americas and Asia Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade led the New Zealand side.

IIM Indore Partners With GIZ, India To Help Businesses Tackle Post-Covid Challenges

Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Indore has partnered with The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to identify the challenges across pandemic-hit sectors and to figure out ways to tackle them. IIM Indore received a research grant of Rs. 85.3 Lakhs.

WCD Ministry initiates 9 centers to support Indian Overseas Women

'Sakhi-One Stop Centres (OSC)' , a 100% centrally sponsored scheme through Nirbhaya Fund under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) set up in 2015 to support women affected by violence in public and private space.

- ✓ Now, WCD Ministry and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have decided to set up 10 OSCs in **9 countries** – Australia, Canada, Singapore, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia(2 OSCs) to support Indian women.
- ✓ **Objective** - Centers will assist Indian women, who are survivors of gender-based violence, victims of violence or struck due to particular situations.

Govt. Launched a Campaign to Train 5 Million Youth In Fight Against COVID-19

#YoungWarrior , a pan-India campaign initiated to collectively engage five million young people to combat the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Launched by - Ministry of Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) and its partner organisation YuWaah,Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE) with the support of over 950 coalition partners.

Education Ministry approves Monetary Assistance to Students under MDM Scheme

Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' approved the proposal to provide monetary assistance to 11.8 Crore students through Direct Benefit Transfer **(DBT)** of the cooking cost component of the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (**MDM**). Each Child will get approximately INR 100 under the One-time welfare measure.

GOVT SCHEMES

Govt Extends Payment Deadline to Vivad Se Vishwas scheme

Vivad Se Vishwas under direct tax dispute resolution scheme – Extends to another two months 2 months till 30th June 2021.

Other Extensions –

Deadlines for various compliance under Income Tax Act due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deadline for reopening of assessment on income which escaped the assessment under the section 148, till 30th June.

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MoFPI issues guidelines for PLI Scheme for Food Processing Industry

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (**MoFPI**) has issued guidelines for 'Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (**PLISFPI**)'.

Objective of Scheme - Creating global food manufacturing champions & supporting Indian brands of food products in International markets.

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Narendra Singh Tomar launched an online portal for applicants to apply for the scheme. In March, 2021, the Union Cabinet had approved the Central Sector Scheme – PLISFPI with a total outlay of INR 10, 900 Crores.

A new Guidelines for Implementation of CPSU Scheme Phase-II

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has released the below new guidelines for implementation of Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) Scheme Phase-II (Government Producer Scheme).

1.**Revised Maximum Tariff** (i.e the maximum rate a CPSU can charge from Power Distribution Companies) – INR 2.45 per unit revised from INR 2.80 per unit.

2.**Reduced the Maximum Permissible Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to INR 0.55 Crore per MegaWatt (MW) from earlier INR 0.7 Crore per MW.

Area of Summer Crops Increased by 21.58%

Area of Cultivation of Summer Crops increased by 21.58% in 2021 from 2020. In 2021, Summer crops were Cultivated in 80.02 lakh hectares as against 65.82 lakh hectares in 2020. The Increase in the area of summer crops is mainly due to the sharp increase in cultivation of pulses area.

Madhya Pradesh Launches new scheme to fight COVID-19

Scheme name - 'Mukhyamantri COVID Upchar Yojana'

Aim - T255df2tqw54qao provide free treatment for COVID-19 to all Economically Weaker Families of the state.

Launched by - State Government of Madhya Pradesh

The scheme also aims to ensure steps for free COVID-19 treatment of families possessing Ayushman cards.

Swastha Aahar Yojana-Healthy Food Scheme for Covid patients in Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh's Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang has launched the Free Swastha Aahar Yojana (Healthy Food Scheme) for the corona patients in Bhopal.Under this scheme,the patients will get nutritious food free of cost in the hospital where they are admitted.

PM Modi releases 8th Installment of funds under PM-KISAN Scheme

PM Narendra Modi has released the 8th installment of funds to beneficiaries under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.** Around ~INR 20, 667 crores were distributed to around 9.5 Crore farmer beneficiaries in the 8 installments. For the 1st time, farmers in West Bengal joined the PM-KISAN Scheme, and around 7 Lakh Bengal farmers received their 1st installment.

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Uttarakhand announced a scheme for Children Orphaned due to Covid-19

Vatsalya Yojana launched by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.The scheme is scheduled to be implemented by May 30, 2021.

- ✓ The state's orphaned children will be provided with a maintenance allowance of Rs 3000 per month.

J&K Launched Scheme for families lost bread earner to COVID-19 pandemic

Manoj Sinha Lieutenant Governor (Lt G) of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) launched 'Special Assistance Scheme for Covid Mortalities (SASCM to provide financial assistance to the families that lost breadwinners to the COVID-19 pandemic. The government of J&K has created a 'Special Cell'

Madhya Pradesh announced a scheme to award people for planting trees

'Ankur' – It is a scheme of Madhya Pradesh government launched to awards its state citizens for planting trees during monsoon. the Social Welfare department to identify and support the families in distress.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

US approves proposed sale of 6 P-8I Patrol Aircraft to India

The United States State Department has approved the proposed sale of 6 Poseidon-8I (P-8I) Patrol Aircraft and other equipment to India with cost estimation of USD 2.42 Billion (~ INR 18, 000 Crore). These are produced by Boeing, an American Aerospace & Defense Company.

- ❖ It is being procured by the Indian Government for the Indian Navy.It will be used for long range anti-submarine warfare.
- ❖ In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the procurement of the P-8I Aircrafts and other equipment.

Saudi Arabia Joins 'Net Zero Producers Forum' on Climate Change

- ❖ Five countries which are responsible for 40% of oil and gas production are Saudi Arabia (the world's biggest crude exporter), Qatar, the United States, Canada and Norway.
- ❖ They have launched a cooperative forum on climate called "Net Zero Producers Forum".
- ❖ Under the forum, they will discuss about the ways to achieve net zero carbon emission targets to limit global warming and discuss how they can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

U.S Approves $550 million Crimson Solar Project in California desert

United States(U.S) has approved a $550 million Crimson Solar Project in California desert.It is capable of powering nearly 90,000 homes.

- ❖ It is being developed by Canadian Solar unit Recurrent Energy and will deliver power to California utility Southern California Edison.
- ❖ This project will be installed on 2,000 acres of federal land west of Blythe, California, featuring 350 MW of solar photovoltaic facility and 350 MW of energy storage system.

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India virtually participates in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial 2021

3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) 2021 was held in Tokyo, Japan from May 8-9, 2021.
Organizers - Iceland & Japan
Theme for 2021 is 'Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic'.
Indian Representative - Union Minister for Earth Science Dr Harsh Vardhan.
India's Vision:- India is also set to launch 'NISAR' (NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar).It will help in conducting global measurements of the cause and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.
The ASM3 2021 is the 1st meeting to be held in Asia.It is a global platform for discussing research and cooperation in the Arctic region, initiated by the Arctic Council, a high-level intergovernmental forum.

Portugal Opened Pedestrian Suspension Bridge

Portugal opened the Pedestrian suspension bridge at Arouca Geopark in **Northern Portugal.**
Name of the bridge - '516 Arouca' , a 516meter long bridge which is suspended at 175 meters above the Paiva River.
Built by - Institute for Research and Technological Development for Construction, Energy, Environment and Sustainability as a tourist attraction for the Arouca region.

China's Population growth records Lowest rate in decades: China Census

According to the 7th census conducted by China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), China's annual population growth stood at '0.53%' in the last decade (2010-20), the lowest since 1953. China's population stood at 1.41 Billion in 2020. According to Chinese demographers, India may overtake China as the most populous country by 2023 or 2024, much sooner than the UN projects of 2027.

World Food Price Index Increased in April : FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO) Food Price Index (FFPI) has averaged 120.9 points in April 2021, which is 2 points (1.7%) higher than the FFPI in March 2021 and 28.4 points(30.8%) higher than April 2020.This
marks the 11th consecutive monthly rise in the FFPI value to its highest since May 2014.

Global Task Force on Pandemic Response Launched to assist COVID-19 around the world

Leading Companies and Business Associations has launched the Global Task Force on Pandemic Response to mobilize and deliver resources to assist COVID-19 efforts in areas of the highest need around the world.This US-Based public-private partnership is organised by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and supported by Business Roundtable.

Long Working Hours can increase deaths from Heart Disease, Stroke: WHO, ILO Study

According to a new study, working 55 or more hours per week is associated with an estimated 35% of higher risk of a stroke and a 17% higher risk of dying from Ischemic Heart disease (compared to working 35-40 hours a week).It published in the Scientific Journal 'Environment International'.
Study Conducted by - World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

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China – World's First Country to Ban Synthetic Cannabinoids

China issued a total **ban on synthetic cannabinoids**, thus becoming the world's first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances. The ban is likely to come into effect on July 1,2021. Synthetic Cannabinoids are human made chemicals. They are designer drugs.

Tata Communications launches CSR Project for empowering Indian Women

Tata Communications launched their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project – **'School of Hope and Empowerment (S.H.E)'** for empowering Indian women during the 2021 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development held virtually from Berlin,Germany. The initiative has been developed by Tata Communications in conjunction with The Better India, an effect driven Indian digital media platform.

Highlights – Project launched to inspire at least a million women from small towns to realise their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs. UNESCO has set a new target to make environmental education a core curriculum component in all countries by 2025.

IMF proposes USD 50 Billion plan to vaccinate everyone by 2022

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has put forth an USD 50 Billion proposal to end the COVID-19 Pandemic, it has set a target of vaccinating at least 40% of the world's population by end of 2021 & remaining 60% by first half of 2022. The proposal was drafted by IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath and Staff Economist Ruchir Agarwal.

Over 21 Million sq kms placed under Protected and Conserved Areas since 2010

Report name - 'Protected Planet Report 2020' , a biennial report which evaluates the state of protected and conserved areas around the world.

- ✓ **Released by** - UNEP-WCMC (United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with the support of National Geographic Society
- ✓ **Highlights :-** The report estimated that around 21 million square kms have been added within the Protected & Conserved Areas of the world since 2010.

India to launch Mobile tech platform for UN Peacekeepers

'UNITE AWARE', a mobile tech platform is set to launch by India during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021. India has spent USD 1.64 million for the project.

Purpose of platform – Launches for United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.It will increase the situational awareness of the peacekeepers by providing terrain-related information.

WHO, Switzerland is set to launch 1st 'WHO BioHub Facility'

World Health Organization (WHO), and Switzerland signed an MoU to launch the first WHO BioHub Facility as part of the WHO BioHub System during the 74th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

- ✓ **WHO BioHub Facility Set up in** - Spiez, Switzerland
- ✓ **Aim** - The facility will allow the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and global partners. Under this agreement, the Spiez Biocontainment Laboratory will be made available to WHO and the lab will act as a repository for Sars-CoV-2 viruses or other pathogens with epidemic or pandemic potential.

Global Average Temperature could pass 1.5° C during 2021-25

As per the recent climate updates ,there is a 40% possibility of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5° C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre industrial levels in one of the next 5

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years (2021-25). Average temperatures are likely to be at least 1° C (estimated to be between 0.9° C and 1.8° C) warmer in each of the coming five years (2021-25).

Annual Climate Updated by - United Kingdom Met Office and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).Headquarters of WMO is Geneva, Switzerland.

UN Bodies set up 'One Health' Panel to Advise on Animal Disease Risks

'One Health High-Level Expert Panel' with team of experts formed by United Nation (UN) bodies viz, the World Health Organization(WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to help develop a global plan of action to prevent the spread of diseases from animals to humans.

NATO conducts War Games 'Steadfast Defender 21'

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is conducting War Games 'Steadfast Defender 21' from May-June 2021 to improve the ability of the Allied forces to move quickly across the Atlantic and Europe to protect each other. Majority of the exercise will take place in Germany, Portugal and Romania.

VISITS

FOREIGN VISIT

Overview of EAM Jaishankar's visit to the United Kingdom

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar visited London, United Kingdom (UK) to participate in the G7 Foreign & Development Ministers Meeting. It was hosted by UK's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab.India has been invited as a Guest Country to the meeting by the UK.

- G7 Countries are Britain, United States (US), Canada, France, Germany, Italy & Japan.The 1st Trilateral Ministerial Dialogue between India-France-Australia was held on the sidelines of the G7 meeting.
- UK's Home Secretary Priti Patel & India's EAM S Jaishankar signed the 'Migration and Mobility Partnership (MMP)' agreement between the 2 countries.
- UK & India virtually signed the UK-India Enhance Trade Partnership (ETP) Agreement, which aims to double bilateral trade between the two countries by 2030...Click here for full news...

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI IN NEWS

RBI Became a member of Network for Greening the Financial System

RBI joined as a member of Central Banks and Supervisors' **Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS)** from April 23,2021**.**

- It was launched at the Paris One Planet Summit on December 12, 2017.
- RBI will contribute to global efforts on green finance and climate change. It has structured 5 work streams to achieve its work program.

RBI imposed Rs 40 lakh penalty to Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank

- The RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 40 lakh on Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank,** Shimla, for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions issued by NABARD.

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- The penalty has been imposed for non-compliance with regulatory directions issued by NABARD contained in ''Review of Frauds - Guidelines on Monitoring and Reporting System''.

RBI Imposed Monetary Penalty of Rs 3 crore on ICICI Bank for Contravention of Rules

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a Rs.3 crore monetary penalty on ICICI Bank for contravention of certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Prudential Norms for Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio by Banks in July 2015.

Cause for the Penalty: For shifting of securities in May 2017 from HTM (held to maturity) category to AFS (available for sale) without explicit permission.

- The penalty is intended only over the ICICI bank's insufficiency in regulatory compliance and not over any agreement by the bank with its customers.
- Under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act), RBI was vested with the power to impose penalty.

RBI's Comprehensive Credit Support Measures Against the Second wave of COVID-19

Reserve Bank of India announced a series of measures and Comprehensive strategies to support all stakeholders from the second wave of COVID-19 led economic difficulties.

- Term Liquidity Facility of ₹50,000 crores to Ease Access to Emergency Health Services.
- RBI introduced special three-year long-term repo operations (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crore at a repo rate for the SFBs.
- RBI allowed the utilisation of 100% floating provisions for non-performing assets.
- RBI Increased State Governments' OD Facility Tenor to 50 days.
- RBI Announced 2nd G-Sec Purchase under G-SAP 1.0 for Rs 35,000 crore; G-sec Yields Softens...Click here for all measures...

RBI set up Advisory Group to Assist RRA 2.0

A new **6 members committee** constituted by Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)

Committee name - Advisory Group to assist RRA 2.0

Head of the committee - S Janakiraman, MD of State Bank of India

Purpose - To support in reviewing the RBI's regulations and compliance procedures to streamline/ rationalize them to make them more effective.

Also, RBI conducted the simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities(G-Sec) (Operation Twist) each worth Rs 10,000 crore under open market operations (OMOs) in May 2021.

RBI Revised the Guidelines for Private Banks to Undertake Govt Business

Reserve Bank of India revised the existing guidelines on authorizing Scheduled Private Sector Banks as agency banks of RBI for conducting government (Central and/or State) business. According to the revised rules, scheduled private sector **banks should not under the RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** framework to become the agency banks of RBI to conduct the Govt. business.

RBI Amended the Master Direction on KYC

RBI Amended the Master Direction on know your customer(KYC) to further leverage the video-based customer identification process (V-CIP) and simplify the process of periodic updating of

KYC. RBI has specified certain standards for REs which are opting to undertake V-CIP…Click here for more detail..

RBI Extended Restrictions on Millath Co-operative Bank

Under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI), extended the restriction on Karnataka-based Millath Co-operative Bank, for 3 months i.e up to August 7, 2021.

Eroute Technologies Gets PPI Authorization From RBI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in exercise of the powers conferred on it under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, grants authorization to Eroute Technologies Private Limited with perpetual validity for issuance and operation of semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) in the country.

RBI Cancelled the License of United Co-operative Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of United Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bagnan, West Bengal in May 2021, as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects to pay its present depositors in full. The bank also does not comply with the provisions of section 11(1) and section 22 (3) (d) read with section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Following the cancellation of the license, the bank is prohibited from conducting the 'banking' business (including acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits) from May 13, 2021.

RBI Excluded LVB from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has now excluded Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.(LVB) from the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934 .LVB was merged with DBS Bank India Ltd (DBIL) in 2020.

RBI Mandated PPIs Interoperability by March 2022

Under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, RBI has mandated that all prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) or mobile wallets such as Paytm, PhonePe and Mobikwik that are fully KYC-compliant be made interoperable by March 31, 2022 .

RBI's Regulations over PPIs are :- Mandating Interoperability by March 31, 2022, maximum amount outstanding in full-KYC PPIs has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakhs, and permitted cash withdrawal from full-KYC PPIs issued by non-bank PPI issuers with a maximum limit of Rs 2,000 per transaction with an overall limit of Rs 10,000 per month per PPI.

Priyadarshini Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank was Imposed Rs 1 lakh Penalty by RBI

Maharashtra's Priyadarshini Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank was imposed Rs 1 lakh penalty by the RBI for violation of certain directions under the Supervisory Action Framework.

The penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Section 46 (4) (i) and Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid directions issued by RBI.

RBI Board Approved Transfer of Rs 99,122 crore as Surplus to Govt

RBI approved the transfer of Rs 99,122 crore as surplus to the Central government for the accounting period of 9 months from July 2020 to March 2021 under the 589th virtual meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI under the chairmanship of RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. The board also decided to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50% in line with recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee report.

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SEBI Doubled the Overall limit for Overseas Investment by AIFs, VCFs

In consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) doubled the overall limit of the investment in overseas markets by alternative investment funds(AIFs), and Venture Capital Funds(VCFs) registered under SEBI (VCFs) Regulations, 1996, from $750 million to $1,500 million (~Rs10,000 crore).

RBI Imposed Monetary Penalty on City Union Bank Limited, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1 crore on City Union Bank Limited and Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of RBI such as – Lending to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector Directions, 2017, the circulars on Educational Loan Scheme and Credit Flow to Agriculture Agricultural Loans Waiver of Margin/Security Requirements, and Cyber Security Framework for Banks.

RBI imposed penalty on Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank and Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited

RBI imposed Rs 90 lakh penalty on Nutan Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad for non-compliance with directions of Interest Rate on Deposits, Know Your Customer (KYC). Rs 10 lakh penalty on Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited impose by RBI for non-compliance with RBI Commercial Paper Directions 2017 and Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (RBI) Directions, 2016.

RBI Issued Guidelines for Amalgamation of District Central Co-op Banks with State Co-op Banks

Reserve Bank of India(RBI) notified the guidelines for the

- ✓ Amalgamation of one or more District Central Co-operative Banks **(DCCBs)** in a State with State Co-operative Bank **(StCB)** or amalgamation of one DCCB with another.

RBI issued the guidelines as some of the State governments approached RBI for amalgamation of DCCBs with the StCB as a two-tier Short-term Co-operative Credit Structure (**STCCS**).

Highlights of RBI Annual Report 2020-21

RBI released its Annual Report for 2020-21, a statutory report of its Central Board of Directors, which covers the working and functions of the RBI for the transition period of 9 months (July 2020 – March 2021). Due to the onset of the second wave of COVID-19, RBI has stated a raft of revisions to growth projections of FY22 towards the RBI's earlier projection of 10.5 percent (26.2 percent in Q1, 8.3 percent in Q2, 5.4 percent in Q3 and 6.2 per cent in Q4)...Click here for complete article..

RBI Imposed Rs 10 crore Penalty on HDFC Bank

On May 28, 2021, The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 10 crore on HDFC Bank Limited** for contravention of provisions of section 6(2) and section 8 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).

RBI imposed the penalty in the exercise of powers vested with the RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Act, after finding irregularities with the HDFC bank's auto loan portfolio.

BANKING TECHNOLOGY

CtrlS & Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance joined hands to Provide Technology Solutions

Strategic Technology Partnership - CtrlS Datacenters, Asia's largest hyperscale rated-4 data center, and Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance

Purpose - to improve the Canara HSBC's adaptability over the technology infrastructure.

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- As the Canara HSBC desired to upgrade its technology landscape, CtrlS plans to operate one of its data center facilities to support for its digital transformation.

LOANS ISSUED BY BANKS

LOANS ISSUED BY	RECEIVED BY	AMOUNT	KEY NOTES
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	India	$3.92 billion	**Asian Development Bank (ADB)** headquartered at Manila, Philippines has committed $3.92 billion in sovereign loans for 13 projects to India in 2020,.It includes $1.8 billion in projects to support the Government of India's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response. Since the start of its lending operations in 1986, this was ADB's highest-ever annual lending commitment to India.

AGREEMENTS & MoUs SIGNED

BANKS	SIGNED WITH	KEY NOTES
State Bank of India(SBI)	HyperVerge	**Tie up b/w** - State Bank of India(SBI) headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra & HyperVerge , AI company **Objective** – SBI made an agreement to obtain its technology called 'Video KYC solution' for onboarding customers online under COVID-19.Video KYC solution will be used by SBI to achieve the 10x improvement over the regular video KYC checks performed per day per agent.

OTHER BANKING NEWS

SIDBI Launched Two Quick Credit Delivery Schemes Against COVID-19

Small Industries Development Bank of India **(SIDBI)** launched the below two new quick credit delivery schemes and against the COVID-19 crisis to support MSMEs.

SHWAS - SIDBI assistance to Healthcare sector in War Against the Second wave of COVID-19

AROG - SIDBI Assistance to MSMEs for Recovery & Organic Growth during COVID-19 pandemic.

Headquarters of SIDBI – Lucknow,Uttarpradesh

Mastercard and Gemini partners to launch a crypto rewards credit card

Mastercard and 'Gemini', a cryptocurrency exchange made partnership along with 'WebBank', a leading digital lender launches a first of its kind cryptocurrency rewards credit card.

- Here, WebBank will be the issuing bank for the Gemini Credit Card.
- Using this card, Clients will earn up to 3% in cryptocurrencies depending on their purchase.

Airtel Payments Bank becomes first to enable ₹2 lakh of day-end balance account limit

First payments bank in the country - As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) guidelines, Airtel Payments Bank has increased the day-end account balance limit for customers from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh and become the first payments bank in the country to do so. Click here to Know more

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ICICI Bank Joined hands with Decentro Tech

Partnership b/w - ICICI Bank and Decentro Tech Private Ltd, a full-stack Application Programming Interfaces (API) banking platform.

Purpose - To offer customized business banking APIs to fintechs, startups, and corporates and e-commerce companies.

ICICI Bank's seven business banking APIs from different categories, like deposits, payments, and collections were integrated by Decentro to provide a powerful kit to the end users.

- **Headquarters of ICICI** - Mumbai, Maharashtra

Central Bank of India launched 'Immune India Deposit Scheme' to Boost COVID-19 vax Drive

The Central Bank of India launched the "Immune India Deposit Scheme" a special deposit scheme to provide an additional interest rate of 25 basis points in addition to the applicable card rate for the vaccinated people.

- ❖ The Immune India Deposit Scheme has a maturity of 1111 days.
- ❖ The senior citizens are also eligible for the extra interest as applicable.

Neobank, Fi Partnered with Federal Bank to Open Instant Savings Account

Bengaluru-based Neobank Fi, has partnered with Federal Bank to issue an instant savings account, equipped with a debit card, in under 3 minutes for salaried millennials. Click here to Know more

eNAM Selected Kotak Mahindra Bank as Digital Payments Partner

Kotak Mahindra Bank headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra was selected as a digital payments partner by the National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to facilitate online transactions for all stakeholders on the eNAM platform, including farmers, traders and farmer producer organisations (FPOs).

Kotak became one of the first banks to join eNAM, as an online payments and transactions partner.

NABARD Provided Financial support of Rs.9162 crore to West Bengal in FY21

In FY21, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) gave financial support of **Rs 9,162 crore** to West Bengal (WB) for the development of agriculture and allied sectors under Covid-19.

- ❖ The theme for this year's State Focus Paper (2021-22) is **'Collectivization of Agricultural Produce for Enhancing Farmer's Income'.**
- ❖ NABARD State Focus Paper 2021-22 has estimated a credit potential of Rs.2.21 lakh crores to be disbursed by various banks for the priority sector activities of WB.

SEBI Amended the Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements' Regulations

SEBI amended the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, called SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021.

Amended Under - Section 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) Act, 1992 (15 of 1992),

Aim of amendment - To boost the listing of start-ups on Innovators Growth Platform which earlier named as Institutional Trading Platform (ITP) (formed in 2015).

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ADB launches a Hub to enhance International Tax Cooperation

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched the **'Asia Pacific Tax Hub'**.

Purpose - To boost International Tax Cooperation and also to create an open and inclusive platform for promoting strategic policy dialogue, improving knowledge sharing & strengthening coordination on tax policy and administration among ADB members and development partners.

Federal Bank ties up with Mashreq Bank for money transfer

Tie up b/w - Federal Bank headquartered at Aluva,Kerala and Mashreq Bank headquartered at UAE,Dubai.

Purpose - To facilitate the transfer of money from the United Arab Emirates to India.

Geojit Partners with PNB to provide 3-in-1 Account

Tie up b/w - Geojit Financial Services & Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Purpose - to provide the advantage of a three-in-one account(Savings Account,a Demat Account and a Trading Account) to the customers of PNB.

Geojit had a similar tie-up with Oriental Bank of Commerce which, along with UBI, has now merged into PNB.

SEBI Issued Disclosure Norms for Top 1000 Listed Companies

Under Section 11(1) of the (SEBI) Act, 1992 read with Regulation 101 of the Listing of Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued new disclosure norms over the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (**BRSR**), for the top 1,000 listed companies (by market capitalization) by FY23 .

Central Govt. issues Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme FY22

Government of India(GoI), in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds for FY22. The Sovereign Gold Bonds will be issued in 6 tranches from May 2021 to September 2021. The Bonds will be sold through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices.

Airtel Payments Bank Launched a Digital Platform for Gold Investment

Airtel Payments Bank and SafeGold, a digital gold provider jointly launched a digital platform.

Digital platform name – DigiGold.

Purpose - Airtel Payments Bank's saving account customers are enabled to invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app. The gold purchased under the platform will be stored by SafeGold at no additional cost.

OneWeb partners with SoftBank to promote Satellite Communication Services

Tie up b/w - OneWeb (a venture backed by Sunil Mittal) and SoftBank Group Corp headquartered at Tokyo, Japan.

Purpose - To promote satellite communication services in the Global and Japan markets through a combination of OneWeb's satellite services & SoftBank's Digital Transformation (DX) platform services.

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IOB Got Shareholders' nod for Rs 4,100 crore Infusion by Govt

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) headquartered at Chennai, Tamil Nadu obtained approval from its shareholders through an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for the issuance of 246,54,23,932 equity shares to the Government of India (GoI) on a preferential basis for a capital infusion of Rs 4,100 crores by GoI in the bank.After this, GoI's shareholding in IOB increased from 95.84 percent to 96.38 percent.

NABARD Provided Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to Assam in FY21

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development **(NABARD**) headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra provided a record high amount of **Rs 1,236 crore** from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to the Rural Connectivity Projects (Roads & Bridges) in Assam for FY21.

Bank of Baroda launched Microsite to Support Employees amid COVID-19

Bank of Baroda Bank of Baroda headquartered at Vadodara (earlier known as Baroda) in Gujarat recently launched a **Micro-website** that will serve as an emergency networking platform for all employees amid the second wave of COVID-19.It provides Various data, like network of plasma donors to employees and Recovered employees can also enrol themselves voluntarily as donors.

NABARD Provided Rs 1,236 crore from RIDF for Assam in FY21

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra provided a record high amount of Rs 1,236 crore from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of FY21, for the Rural Connectivity Projects (Roads & Bridges) in Assam.

Jana Small Finance Bank, launched a Feature to make banking to be simple and personalized

Jana Small Finance Bank launched a feature called **'I choose my number'.**

Purpose – Allows bank customers to choose their favourite numbers as the **last 10 digits** of their bank account (savings/current) subject to the availability of the requested number.

SEBI Proposed Framework for Regulated Gold Exchange in India

Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) issued a Consultation Paper detailing the proposed framework for the Gold Exchange in India and the draft SEBI (Vault Managers) Regulations, 2021 for regulating the gold exchange-related business of the Vault Managers.The Gold Exchange instruments are termed as "Electronic Gold Receipt" (EGR).

Proposal for Changing Promoters to Person in Control, Rationalizing Promoters Group: SEBI

Securities and Exchange Board of India(**SEBI**) reviewed the regulatory framework of the promoter, promoter group and group companies as per SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements(**ICDR)**) Regulations, 2018 with certain proposals.SEBI's Proposals are The shifting of the concept of 'promoter' to 'person in control',Rationalization of the definition of 'Promoter Group', and Reduction in lock-in period for minimum Promoters' Contribution.

HSBC India launched first-of-its-kind Digital Banking Solution(DBS)

HSBC SmartServe and HSBC IntelliSign are first-of-its-kind Digital Banking Solution(DBS) launched by HSBC India.It is to provide a quick, secure and seamless on-boarding process for its corporate customers. **HSBC India headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra.

IDBI Bank Launches Digital LPS for MSME, Agri Borrowers

IDBI Bank Limited announced the launch of its fully digitized, end-to-end, Loan Processing System (LPS) for its Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises(MSME) and Agri products. It also aims to provide a superior tech-enabled banking experience to the MSME and agri customers. **IDBI Bank Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra.

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Kotak Mahindra Bank became 1st Bank to Issue FPI license to AIF under GIFT IFSC

Kotak Mahindra Bank became the 1st bank to issue **Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI) license** to an Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) incorporated in Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), after its issuance of FPI license on May 20, 2021, to the GIFT IFSC AIF of True Beacon Global.In partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank, True Beacon launched its first AIF in GIFT-City with PricewaterhouseCoopers(PWC) as consultants. **Kotak Mahindra Bank 's Headquarters** - Mumbai, Maharashtra.

TransUnion's Onboarding Solution Implemented By YES Bank

Yes Bank digitizes onboarding of credit card customers by implementing TransUnion's Onboarding Solution. This solution will enable YES BANK to onboard its credit card customers seamlessly, efficiently, and quickly.

- ✓ **Headquarters of YES Bank** - Mumbai, Maharashtra.

PNB, PNB Housing Enters New Brand Agreement

Tie up b/w - Punjab National Bank (PNB) HQs at New Delhi and PNB Housing Finance Limited (PNB Housing).

Purpose -This agreement is to provide PNB with the right to withdraw its brand name from PNB Housing. Currently, PNB is holding 33 percent in PNB Housing.

ICICI Bank's e-wallet Became the 1st to be Linked with UPI Network

'Pockets', an e-wallet of ICICI bank, became the 1st one in the industry to link e-wallet with UPI Network. ICICI Bank has launched this facility of linking a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with digital wallet along with the collaboration of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

ICICI Bank - Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Bank headquarters at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

HDFC To Raise Up To Rs 7,000 Cr By Issuing Bonds

HDFC Bank has announced that it will raise up to Rs 7,000 crore by issuing bonds on private placement basis. he secured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs) will be issued with the base size of Rs 5,000 crore with option to retain oversubscription of up to Rs 2,000 crore.

HDFC Bank Headquarters is at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Canara Bank Launched 3 Loan Schemes amidst COVID-19

Canara Bank launched 3 categories of loan schemes such as **Canara Chikitsa** healthcare credit facility, **Canara Jeevanrekha** healthcare business loan, and **Canara Suraksha** personal loan scheme, as a part of the fight against COVID-19 to individuals. **Headquarters of Canara Bank -** Bengaluru, Karnataka**.**

UCO Bank Alloted Preferential Shares to Govt for Rs 2,600 crore Capital Infusion

UCO Bank **allotted 203,76,17,554 preferential shares (PS) (equity shares of Rs 10 each)** to the Government of India at an issue price of Rs 12.76 per share against a capital contribution of Rs 2,600 crore received by the Bank on March 31, 2021. The bank's board has approved a proposal to raise up to Rs 3,000 crore equity capital in 2021-22 through various means including preferential issue, follow on public offer or qualified institutional placement.**Headquarters of UCO Bank** - Kolkata, West Bengal.

FINANCE NEWS

SEBI Mandated AMCs to Pay 20% Salaries of Key Employees in Units of Mutual Funds

SEBI has mandated key employees of AMCs to pay 20 percent of their salary (including perks, bonus, non-cash compensation net of income tax and statutory contributions like Employees Provident Fund) in units of mutual fund schemes in which they have a role/oversight.

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- Key employees of AMCs include - Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Investment Officer (CIO), Chief Risk Officer (CRO), Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), etc.
- The regulations will be applicable from 1st July 2021 and they are only for AMCs, not on the agents, banks, and insurance companies.

SEBI Imposed Fine of Rs 1.75 Cr on Several Entities in Vakrangee Case

A fine of Rs 1.75 crore was imposed by Market's regulator Securities Exchange Board of India **(SEBI)** on several entities for indulging in fraudulent trading in the scrip of Vakrangee Ltd.

- In one of the two orders a fine of Rs 50 lakh each was imposed on a group of 22 connected entities and on a group of 16 entities.
- And in another order a fine of Rs.75 lakh was imposed on the connected group of 27 entities.

LIC Became 10th Most valuable & 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand Globally

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) as the 3rd strongest and the 10th most valuable insurance brand globally.

Report name - "Insurance 100 2021" , the most valuable and strongest insurance brands.

Released by - Brand Finance, a London-based brand valuation consultancy firm.

Ping An Insurance in China became first followed by China Life Insurance in China and AllianZ in Germany.

IRDAI Introduced Standard Travel Insurance with Guidelines

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), has issued guidelines on Bharat Yatra Suraksha, the Standard Domestic Travel Insurance Product (SDTIP) of India. The standard product consists of five different plans under the standard travel insurance product and the coverage is both benefit and indemnity-based.

Axis Mutual Fund Launched Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund

Axis Mutual Fund launched a mutual fund scheme called **Axis Global Innovation Fund of Fund** to provide opportunity for investors to invest in Schroder International Selection Fund (SISF) Global Disruption.This is AMC's fourth international fund.

- SISF Global Disruption is an equity fund that aims to provide long term capital growth by investing in worldwide companies that benefit from disruption.
- It is an open-ended fund of fund scheme that will invest in SISF Global Disruption to provide capital growth.

SAIL Enters 100 Most-Valued Indian Firms List

With Rs.55,500 crore market capitalisation (m-cap), **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** enters 100 most-valued Indian firms' club.

- SAIL regained market capitalisation (m-cap) of Rs.50,000 crore, after its stock of SAIL increased to a nine year high of Rs 135.60 on the BSE.
- According to BSE data,SAIL stood at 78th position in the overall m-cap ranking with a market cap of Rs 55,529 crore.

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EPFO can Invest up to 5% in AIFs

Employees Provident Fund Organization(**EPFO**) had made changes in investment pattern by allowing to make an investment of up to 5 % of its investible surplus in Alternative Investment Funds **(AIFs).**

Notified by - Labour Ministry

This change occurred after the Government's recent modification over the investment pattern of Non-Government Provident Funds, Superannuation Funds, and Gratuity Funds to invest in AIFs.

Target – This is to help 100,000 Indian startups and over 100 unicorns become global giants by 2025.

Bajaj Finserv launched public awareness campaign on financial fraud risks

Campaign name - 'Savdhan Rahein, Safe Rahein'

Launched by - Bajaj Finserv Limited headquartered at Pune, Maharashtra , a part of Bajaj Holdings & Investments.

Aim of Campaign - a public awareness campaign on financial fraud risks to educate how to stay protected across digital and social media platforms. The campaign has a catchy jingle 'Na Ji Na Ji' with an endearing character named 'Gupta Ji'.

Muthoot Finance tie-up with NIRA to Provide Personal Loans

Tie up b/w - Muthoot Finance Limited and NIRA, a Bangalore-based fintech start-up

Purpose - To strengthen the digital footprint and enhance the personal loans growth.

NIRA fintech is offering small ticket personal loans to salaried customers of India's middle class. They offer loans to the low-income salaried class starting with an income of Rs 12,000 per month onwards.

Google Pay launches International Money Transfers for US users

Google Pay has launched International Money Transfers for its United States (US) users, it has launched the initiative in partnership with remittance firms – Wise, and Western Union Co. Using this feature, Google Pay users in the US can transfer money to Google Pay users in India & Singapore.

PayPal Introduced Digital FIRA

PayPal, the Digital payments provider, introduced an automated process to receive monthly Foreign Inward Remittance Advice (FIRA), allowing Indian merchants to download their monthly digital FIRA issued by banks. It is a document that acts as proof for all inward remittances and payments received from abroad.This step is a part of PayPal's mission to reach net zero emissions by 2040.

SEBI Amended AIFs, Added Start-up Definition

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) norms called SEBI (AIFs) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2021 on May 2021 to add – definition of Start-up for the investment by Angel Funds and regulations over the AIFs. To strengthen the corporate governance practices and disclosure requirements, SEBI has also mandated the top 1,000 listed firms to formulate a dividend distribution policy(DDP)…Click here for full article..

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Rs 455 Cr Raised by SBI Cards by Issuing Bonds

Rs 455 crore has been raised by SBI Cards and Payment Services (SBI Card) by issuing bonds. These bonds will offer coupons at 5.70 percent per annum which will mature on May 10, 2024. 4,550 unsecured Non-Convertible Debentures(NCD'S) that have a fixed-rate and are taxable and redeemable has been allocated by SBI cards.

IDRBT Building Next Generation Digital Financial Infrastructure, NADI

Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of the Reserve Bank of India , is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI). NADI will be owned by the Government of India, with NADI's high-speed network, the government could monitor and control all financial activity, and it will also make security easier.

PayPoint India & Digit General Insurance joined hands for Health Insurance to Rural Areas

Tie up b/w - PayPoint India & Digit General Insurance,Karnataka.
Purpose - To provide affordable COVID-19 Health Insurance policy to its customers in India's underserved regions to improve the insurance access and assist the rural people in recovering themselves from financial losses due to the COVID-19.

Edelweiss General Insurance Launched Digital Partner Onboarding Solution – IPOS

Edelweiss General Insurance(EGI), an InsurTech start-up has launched, Integrated Partner Onboarding Solution (IPOS) an industry-first digital end to end partner onboarding solution. IPOS is an onboarding solution for all its existing and prospective partners including Agents, Brokers and Web Aggregators.

India became the 2nd Largest Insurtech Market in Asia Pacific Region

S&P Global Market Intelligence reported India as the 2nd largest insurance-technology (insurtech) market in Asia-Pacific(AP) region after China, as it accounts for 35 percent/$1.28 billion of the total venture capitals ($3.66 billion) poured into the insurtech sector in the AP region so far.

Report on SSE by SEBI's TG: Not Allowed Political, religious firms for SSE

A technical group(TG) under the chairmanship of Harsh Bhanwala on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs), constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has recommended not to allow the political and religious organizations, trade organizations, corporate foundations, infrastructure and housing companies (except affordable housing) to raise funds using SSE mechanism.

Alankit tie-up with Digital Swiss Gold – to Offer Gold Platform Investment

Tie up b/w - Alankit Imaginations Ltd,New Delhi and Digital Swiss Gold (DSG), an innovative digital platform to buy and hold physical gold digitally in Switzerland
Objective - Under the partnership, investors could buy Swiss Gold digitally after becoming a Digital Swiss Gold member by creating an account on an app and completing the KYC process. DSG will offer competitive and transparent pricing, which will save up to 10 percent compared to published Indian gold prices.

Aditya Birla Sun Life Launched a new Savings Plan

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (**ABSLI)**, the life insurance company launched a flexible savings plan to provide guaranteed regular income along with flexible bonus payouts to policyholders.
Saving plan name - 'Vision LifeIncome Plus Plan'.
It is a non-linked participating individual plan that is designed as a customizable savings plan and suitable for the customer's financial needs at all stages of life.

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SEBI Imposed Rs 5.25 crore Fine on Cairn India

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 5.25 crore on Cairn India for making a misleading announcement regarding the buyback of shares on January 14, 2014.
SEBI has also imposed fine of Rs 15 lakh each on P Elango (CEO and director of Cairn), Aman Mehta (director of Cairn's board), and Neerja Sharma (director risk assurance and secretary of Cairn).

ESFBL became the 1st SFB to Offer Online Account Opening for NRIs

Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd(ESFBL) became the first Small Finance Bank(SFB) to offer the online process of account opening for Non-Resident Indians(NRIs). It also became the first SFB to have Virtual Relationship Managers(VRM) based on time zones.It aimed to increase the opportunities for ESFBL's NRI account holders to manage their investments, deposits and the income earned in India.
Headquarters of ESFBL is Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

MRHFL, IPPB tie-up for Cash Management Solution

Tie up b/w - Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited(**MRHFL)**, a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Ltd, and India Post Payments Bank(**IPPB**) headquartered at New Delhi.
Objective - Under the partnership, IPPB will be offering cash management and collection services to MRHFL through its access points and postal service providers.

Biocon & Its Ex-Official was Fined Rs.14 Lakh by SEBI

Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) imposed a total fine of Rs.14 lakh on Biopharmaceutical company Biocon and its former Senior Vice President (R&D) Narendra Chirmule for violation of market norms.

NPCI Onboards PayCore to Develop SoftPoS Solutions for RuPay

National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), has onboarded **PayCore**, Turkey's global payment solutions company as one of the certified partners for '**RuPay SoftPOS'** to drive cashless payments across the country. Along with PayCore, NPCI aims to reduce the investment cost required by banks to reach over the MSMEs and intents to increase the spread of 'RuPay SoftPOS' across India with its network of banks.

Flexiloans Ties With Up Vivriti Capital To Provide Loans To MSMEs

Fintech lender FlexiLoans.com has partnered with financial services company Vivriti Capital to provide working capital financing to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by disbursing loans worth Rs 300 crore.

PayNearby, Centrum Microcredit tie-up to support Retailers

PayNearby, branchless banking and digital payments network, tie-up with Centrum Microcredit, wholly-owned subsidiary of The Centrum Group to offer unsecured Small Medium Business (SMB) loans to its retailers.
Aim - To strengthen the business growth of PayNearby's retailers under COVID-19 by providing credit facilities to them at affordable interest rates.

IMF Plans to Include Climate, Digital tech into Economic Assessments

International Monetary Fund(IMF) plans to update the way it conducts economic assessments to report the risks related to climate change, inequality and demographics, as well as evolving digital technologies.
The new approach was agreed upon by the IMF's executive board after the IMF's first comprehensive review of its surveillance work since 2014.

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ZebPay Launched India's First Crypto Based Lending Platform

ZebPay launched India's 1st lending platform under the cryptocurrency exchange for the investors to invest their coins and earn returns (interest). Currently the exchange will support the bitcoin (BTC), ether (ETH), tether (USDT) and dai (DAI) tokens.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

GDP & GROWTH RATE

ORGANIZATION	YEAR	RATE
Fitch Ratings	FY22	**9.5%** **Fitch Ratings** - Reduced India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 9.5 percent due to COVID-19, it has earlier estimated a 12.8 percent growth for FY22 in March 2021. **S&P Global Ratings -** Revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 9.8 percent due to the impact of the second wave COVID-19, which is reducing the economic recovery.
Oxford Economics	2021	**10.2%** Oxford Economics, Global forecasting firm has revised, ❖ India GDP growth forecast for 2021 from 11.8 per cent to 10.2 per cent due to increasing burden of COVID-19 and lack of appropriate strategy by the government to curtain the pandemic. ❖ **World GDP Growth** - 6.1% in 2021 and 4.3% in 2022.
Goldman Sachs	FY22	**11.1%** Goldman Sachs, brokerage has reduced India's economic growth forecast for FY22 to 11.1 percent from 11.7 percent. It has revised down the growth forecast for calendar year 2021 from 10.5 percent to 9.7 percent. **Other Organization's Projection:** RBI has projected FY22 GDP growth at 10.5 per cent, while IMF puts it at 12.5 per cent. The World Bank sees 2021-22 growth at 10.1 per cent.
UN	2022	**10.1%** In its mid-year report of the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP), United Nations has increased India's GDP growth forecast for the calendar year 2021 to 7.5 percent, a 0.2 percent increase from its earlier projection of 7.3 percent. The report forecasted India's GDP to grow at 10.1 percent in 2022, becoming the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

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Nomura	FY22	**10.8%** **Nomura** revised India's GDP growth forecast on May 11, 2021, for the FY22 fiscal to 10.8 percent from 12.6 percent following a contraction of 7.6 percent in FY21. **CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited)** has estimated India's growth estimation for FY22 to be 11 percent with a "risk firmly tilted downwards" under 2 Scenarios i.e., it estimated around 9.8 percent growth in May-end and 8.2 percent in June-end.
Moody's	FY21	**9.3%** **Moody's Investors Service** revised India's growth forecast for FY21 to 9.3 percent from 13.7 percent (February 2021's forecast).It has increased the growth projection for FY22 to 7.9 percent from 6.2 percent. **Care Ratings** revised its GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 9.2 percent from 10.2 percent. This is the 4th revision by the rating agency in its GDP growth forecast for FY22 since March 2021.
Ecowrap	Q1 FY22	10-15% **State Bank of India's (SBI) research report 'Ecowrap'** stated India's Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth for Q1 FY22 to be in the range of **10-15 percent** as against RBI's forecast of 26.2 percent. It also forecasted Real GDP loss in the range of Rs 4-4.5 lakh crore for Q1 FY22. **Domestic ratings agency ICRA Limited (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited)** forecasted India's GDP growth in the **Q4FY21 at 2 percent**, with a 7.3(-7.3) percent contraction for FY21. From GVA (gross value added) perspective, ICRA forecasts Q4FY21 growth at 3 percent with the contraction at 6.3(-6.3) percent in FY21.

ECONOMY NEWS

CERC gives approval to start India's 3rd Power Exchange

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has approved the registration to start India's 3rd Power Exchange. The Power Exchange will be established by Pranurja Solutions Ltd, a company promoted by BSE Investments, PTC Ltd & ICICI Bank. The other two power exchanges in India are Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) & Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL).

BSE, Dun & Bradstreet India Partners to Promote MSME Growth

Leading stock exchange Bombay Stock Exchange(BSE) has signed a MoU with Dun & Bradstreet Information Services India.

Aim -To create an ecosystem for promoting, aiding and fostering the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises(SME).Also to help the government in achieving the GDP contribution target of 50% of GDP by FY 2025.

In April 2021 India's Export rise to $ 30.63 billion; Trade Deficit rise to $15.10 billion

In May 2021, the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry reported a 3-fold increase in India's export for the month of April 2021, to $30.63 billion from $10.36 billion of April 2020, due to healthy growth in sectors like gems and jewellery, and engineering.

	April 2021	April 2020
Trade deficit	$15.10 billion	$6.76 billion
Imports	$45.72 billion (3 fold increase)	$17.12 billion
Oil imports	$10.8 billion	$4.66 billion
Non-oil imports	$34.85 billion	$12.46 billion
Gold imports	$6.12 billion	$2.83 million

India's WPI Inflation Jumps to 11-year High in April 2021-10.49%

As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on May 17, 2021, India's annual rate of inflation (YoY), based on monthly WPI (Wholesale Price Index) accelerated to 10.49 percent in April 2021, (the highest since April 2010) from 7.39 percent in March 2021 due to a hike in prices of food items, manufactured goods, fuel, and power.

India Records Highest Ever FDI Inflow of US$81.72 Billion in FY21

As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India has attracted the highest ever total **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflow of US$81.72 billion during FY21, which is 10% more than FY20 of US$74.39 billion. Singapore is the top investing country with 29% of total investment, followed by the U.S.A with 23% and Mauritius with 9%.

BUSINESS NEWS

IFC made financial dealing with upGrad, Bajaj Finance

- **Investment in upGrad:** International Finance Corporation (IFC) a member of the World Bank Group headquartered at Washington D.C., USA
  plans to invest USD 40 million (about Rs 290 crore) in Upgrad, an online up-skilling platform.
- **Loan proposal to Bajaj Finance:** IFC proposed a senior loan of $150 million to Bajaj Finance Ltd. for up to 5 years to enable the company to expand its lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and women owned MSMEs.

Apple Launched $200 million Restore Fund to Reduce Carbon

- **First-of-its-kind carbon removal initiative** - Apple,and Conservation International and Goldman Sachs launched this initiative called the Restore Fund of $200 million, to make investments in timber-producing forest properties to remove carbon from the atmosphere and in turn generating a financial return for investors.
- **Aim** - The fund aims to remove one million metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually, which is equivalent to the amount emitted by more than 200,000 passenger vehicles. A goal was set by Apple in 2020, to neutralize its own carbon emissions and those of its suppliers by 2030.

Indian Airline-'GoAir' Rebranded As 'Go First'

Wadia Group owned, Indian Airline, 'GoAir' was rebranded itself as '**Go First'** after completing its 15 years of service as GoAir. The Go First as ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) would operate single

aircraft type across its fleet, which currently has both Airbus A320 and A320Neos (new engine option) planes in operation.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

MoU's BETWEEN COUNTRY

COUNTRY	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
India	Oman	India & Oman renewed 2 MoUs signed between the two sides in 2018 for Military cooperation along with its annexure on maritime issues. Oman is the first Gulf nation to have formalized defence relations with India. **1.MoU on military cooperation** signed between Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, Oman Dr Mohammed bin Nasser Al Zaabi and Ambassador of India to Oman – Munu Mahawar at the Ministry of Defense, Muscat. **2. MoU for cooperation on maritime issues** signed by the Commander of Royal Navy of Oman, the Head of Maritime Security Committee, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi & India's ambassador to Oman – Munu Mahawar at the Maritime Security Centre ,Muscat.
India	Israel	Signed a **three-year 5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP)** 2021-23 agreement for development in Agriculture cooperation. Under the work program, implement two initiatives namely ✓ 'Indo-Israel Agricultural Project Centre of Excellence', and ✓ 'Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence (IIVoE)'. It will benefit local farmers through the Centers of Excellence and the Villages of Excellence.

MoU's WITH STATES

STATE	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
Telangana	NHA	**Tie up b/w** - Telangana Medical and Health department & National Health Authority (NHA). **Aim** – The purpose of agreement is for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(PMJAY)) scheme in the State. The guidelines for the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme in the State were also issued by the state Medical and health department and will be implemented by the Aarogyasri Health Care Trust.
Telangana	Maharashtra	**MoU b/w -** Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), Hyderabad, Telangana and Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Learning, Mumbai, Maharashtra. **Purpose -**MoU signed for Artificial Intelligence(AI)-based pest or insect management system to support the farmers with advanced information on the possible pink bollworm

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		infestation in cotton fields which will help with the control and preventive measures.

MoU's BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

ORGANIZATION	MoU's WITH	FIELD / PURPOSE
TRIFED	The Link Fund	**MoU signed -**TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) & The Link Fund, a Philanthropic operational foundation for empowerment of tribals. It aims to empower tribal people by increasing the value addition in their produce and products.
TEMA	ICCC	**MoU signed b/w** - Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) and Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) **Aim** - To promote AtmaNirbhar Bharat. It will also facilitate investment & manufacturing in Telecom, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), railways, healthcare, agriculture, smart cities.
NDDB	EESL	**MoU b/w** = National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) virtually **Purpose** - To promote efficient renewable technologies in the dairy industry. ❖ NDDB and EESL will work to design and develop innovative energy-efficient business solutions (innovative business models) for dairy cooperative institutions.
EAMPL	Beowulf Mining	Epsilon Advance Material (EAMPL), a subsidiary of Epsilon Carbon, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Beowulf Mining plc to set up a Joint Venture(JV) company in Finland. The main objective of this JV is to become a prominent player in the European Lithium-ion Battery ecosystem.

OTHER MoU'S IN CONTENT FORMAT

India, Israel, UAE Sign Maiden Trilateral Trade Agreement

An Israel-based company 'Ecoppia' is set to produce robotic solar cleaning technology in India for a project in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- ❖ The project will take place through the Trilateral cooperation agreement between Israel, India, and UAE, which is the 1st of its kind between the 3 countries.
- ❖ The Trilateral partnership was initiated by the International Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce (IFIICC).

5 Oil and Gas PSUs sign MoU for Redevelopment of Badrinath Dham as 'Spiritual Smart hill Town'

5 Oil and Gas Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) – Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC),

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and GAIL India Ltd have signed a MoU with Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust for Construction and Redevelopment of Badrinath Dham in Badrinath, Uttarakhand as a 'Spiritual Smart hill Town'.

- ❖ The Redevelopment works are set to be completed in 3 years.

Tribal Affairs Ministry virtually signed with Microsoft for Tribal Schools' Digital Transformation

Tie up b/w - Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) & Microsoft, an American multinational technology company headquartered at Redmond, Washington during the virtual event 'Empowering Youth For Success'.

Objective of Agreement – In motive of developing digital transformation of Tribal schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Ashram Schools, and other schools under MoTA.Microsoft will make the Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum to tribal students in English and Hindi at all EMRS schools.

VOC Port, NTCPWC signed for development of Indigenous VTS

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu and National Technology Centre for Ports Waterways and Coasts (**NTCPWC**), IIT Madras have signed a MoU for development of Indigenous Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Software and for Operation, Manning and Maintenance of Vessel Traffic System.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	ENTITY / PLACE	KEY NOTES
M K Stalin	Chief Minister	Tamil Nadu	M K Stalin who belongs to the party of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam took oath as the 23rd Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN). This is M K Stalin's 1st Term as CM of TN. ❖ He was administered the oath of Office & Secrecy by TN Governor Banwarilal Purohit at Raj Bhavan, Chennai.
N Rangasamy	Chief Minister	Puducherry	N Rangasamy who belongs to All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) took oath as the CM of Puducherry. ❖ It is Rangasamy's 4th Term (2001-06, 2006-08, 2011-16) as CM of Puducherry. He was administered the oath of Office & Secrecy by Puducherry Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan at Raj Niwas, Pondicherry.

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Mamata Banerjee	Chief Minister	West Bengal	**Mamata Banerjee** from Trinamool Congress (TMC) became 8th Chief Minister of West Bengal (WB) for 3rd Consecutive Term even though she was defeated in her constituency of Nandigram. ❖ Mamata Banerjee was administered the oath of office by Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. ❖ **Under Article 164(4)** of the Constitution, an unelected member can assume office as CM but he or she has to either win a bypoll or get elected to the Legislative Council within 6 months to retain the position.
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Chief Minister	Assam	Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam. He has replaced Sarbananda Sonowal. He was administered the oath byGovernor Jagdish Mukhi
Pinarayi Vijayan	Chief Minister	Kerala	Pinarayi Vijayan was sworn in as Kerala Chief Minister for a second time, after guiding the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government to a historic second successive term in the 2021 election. He is the first Chief Minister in Kerala to get a second consecutive term.The Left Democratic Front (LDF)alliance won 99 of 140 seats in this election.
Jose J Kattoor	Executive Director	RBI	RBI has appointed **Jose J Kattoor as its Executive Director (ED)** with effect from 4th May 2021. He has been serving as the Regional Director for Karnataka at the Bengaluru Regional Office of RBI. His appointment comes after RBI's Executive Director, T Rabi Sankar appointed as the 4th Deputy Governor of RBI in April 2021.
T Rabi Sankar	Deputy Governor	RBI	Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **T Rabi Sankar**, the Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the 4th Deputy Governor of RBI for the period of 3 years.

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			❖ He succeeds B P Kanungo, who retired on 2nd April 2021 after serving one year extension period. RBI cannot hold more than 4 deputy governors. The other 3 Deputy Governors of RBI are Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael D Patra and Rajeshwar Rao.
Niraj Bajaj	Chairman	Bajaj Auto	Bajaj Auto has named **Niraj Bajaj**, the non-executive Director of Auto as its **new chairman**. He will succeed Rahul Bajaj with effect from 1st May 2021. Bajaj Auto has also named **Rahul Bajaj as Chairman Emeritus** for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st May 2021.
Rahul Bajaj	Chairman Emeritus		
Amit Banerjee	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	BEML	Public Enterprises Selection Board (**PESB**), has appointed **Amit Banerjee** the Director (Rail & Metro Business) of BEML limited, as **the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD**) of BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited) Limited, a Miniratna Defence Public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence. He succeeds DK Hota who retired on 31st January 2021.
Prafulla Chandra Pant	Acting Chairperson	NHRC	Former Supreme Court Judge **Prafulla Chandra Pant (PC Pant)** had been appointed as Acting Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He **Succeeds Justice H.L. Dattu,** whose tenure ended on December 2, 2020. The term of office of the NHRC Chairperson and members of the NHRC is for five years or till the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
Mahesh Balasubramanian	MD & CEO	Kotak General Insurance (KGI)	Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Limited (KLI) has appointed Mahesh Balasubramanian, MD & CEO of Kotak General Insurance (KGI) as its new MD for a period of 3 years starting from 1st May 2021.

			❖ He was appointed following the retirement of G Murlidhar. ❖ Suresh Agarwal has been appointed as the MD & CEO of KGI.
Ujjwala Singhania	National President	FLO	Ujjwala Singhania , Director of JK In ternational was appointed as the 38th National President of **FLO (FICCI Ladies Organisation)** for the year 2021-22. ❖ She succeeds Jahnabi Phookan who served as the 37th National President for the year 2020-21. She is also a Director at General Data Private Limited.
Arun Kumar Singh	CMD	BPCL	Arun Kumar Singh was appointed as the **Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel.The post was vacant after D.Rajkumar retired in August, 2020. Currently he is serving as Director (Marketing) in BPCL and also holds additional charge of the post of Director (Refineries).
Padmakumar Madhavan Nair	Chief Executive Officer(CEO)	NARCL	**Padmakumar Madhavan Nair,** Chief General Manager of Stressed Assets Resolution Group at State Bank of India appointed as the **1st Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL).** At present, he will be joining the company on deputation basis. NARC (the name coined for the bad bank) is expected to be operational in June,2021.
Gunjan Shah	CEO	Bata India Ltd	India's largest footwear retailer Bata India Ltd., appointed Gunjan Shah as its new chief executive officer(CEO). Before this Gunjan Shah has been working as chief commercial officer in Britannia Industries Ltd. He will succeed Sandeep Kataria who was elevated as the global CEO of Bata Brand.
Gunjan Shah	CEO	Bata India Ltd	India's largest footwear retailer Bata India Ltd., appointed Gunjan Shah as its new chief executive officer(CEO). Before this Gunjan

			Shah has been working as chief commercial officer in Britannia Industries Ltd. He will succeed Sandeep Kataria who was elevated as the global CEO of Bata Brand.
Vandita Kaul	Nominee Director on board	Bank of India	Government of India has appointed Vandita Kaul as government nominee director on the board of directors of Bank of India.Vandita Kaul has been working as an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services.
Abhay Tewari	MD&CEO	SUD LIFE	Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd (SUD LIFE) announced the appointment of Abhay Tewari as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer(MD&CEO) of SUD LIFE.
Rajesh Bansal	CEO	RBIH	Board of **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)** has appointed Rajesh Bansal as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the RBIH. He was a member of the founding team of Aadhaar who played a key role in designing India's Direct Benefit transfer system, particularly for cooking fuel and electronic KYC(e KYC).
Narinder Batra	President	FIH	Narinder Batra, Indian Olympic Association president was re-elected as president of the International Hockey Federation(FIH) for a 2nd term at the virtual 47th Congress of the FHI held on May22,2021. Narinder Batra is also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
Himanta Biswa Sarma	Council Member	BWF	Badminton Association of India (BAI) president **Himanta Biswa Sarma** was elected to the **Badminton World Federation(BWF) council** for the period of four years i.e 2021-25. ✓ He is an Indian politician and the **current Chief Minister of Assam**. He is also the vice president of Badminton Asia.
Subodh Kumar Jaiswal	Director	CBI	Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Subodh Kumar Jaiswal as the Director of Central Bureau of Investigation(CBI) for a period of 2 years from the date of assumption of charge.He has been serving as the Director-General(DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force(CISF).

INTERNATIONAL

PERSON NAME	APPOINTED AS	ENTITY / PLACE	KEY NOTES
Yoweri Museveni	President	Uganda	Yoweri Museveni ,76, of the National Reistance Movement party has been elected President of Uganda for the sixth time. **Uganda's Capital**- Kampala and **Currency**– Ugandan Shilling.
Vanita Gupta	Associate Attorney General	United States	Vanita Gupta became first Indian-American has been appointed Associate Attorney General of United States. ❖ Prior to this she has been the President and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. ❖ She has also headed civil rights division in the Department of Justice in the Obama Administration.
Martin Griffiths	UN humanitarian Chief	UN	United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths as the new UN humanitarian Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator(Chief).He succeeds Mark Lowcock, a Briton who has served as undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator for four years.
KP Sharma Oli	Prime Minister	Nepal	KP Sharma Oli, (69 years old) Chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) was re-appointed as the Prime Minister(PM) of Nepal by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari. KP Sharma Oli has previously served as the PM of Nepal from 2015 to 2016 and from 2018 to 2021. This is the 3rd time as he became the Prime Minister of Nepal.
Moctor Ouane	Prime Minister	Mali	Moctor Ouane was reappointed as Prime Minister of Mali by President Bah Ndaw.He was appointed as Prime Minister of Mali in September 2020, following the military coup which overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August, 2020.

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			Mali's Capital – Bamako and Currency – West African CFA Franc.
Anatole Collinet Makosso	Prime Minister	Republic of the Congo	President of Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso appointed **Anatole Collinet Makosso became the New Prime Minister** of the Republic of the Congo. He replaced the former Prime Minister Clement Mouamba. ✓ **Republic of Congo's Capital** - Brazzaville and Currency - Central African CFA franc. ✓ **Note :** Congo was split into two countries were Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo.
Fiame Naomi Mata'afa	Prime Minister	Samoa	Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, the leader of Fa'atuatua i le Atua Samoa ua Tasi (Fast) party was sworn in as the **first female Prime Minister** of Samoa at a ceremony conducted in a makeshift tent outside the parliament. ✓ She replaces Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi of Human Rights Protection Party (HRPP) the incumbent Male PM of Samoa. **Samoa's Capital** – Apia , and **Currency** - Samoan tala
Penpa Tsering	President	Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)	Penpa Tsering sworn in as the second democratically-elected president (Sikyong) of the 17th Parliament-in-Exile of the **Central Tibetan Administration (CTA),** the Dharamshala-based Tibetan governm ent-in-exile. Penpa Tsering succeeds Lobsang Sangay, who completed his second five-year term. Dalai Lama (Tibetan spiritual leader) participated virtually in the ceremony.
Colonel Assimi Goïta	Transitional President	Mali	Constitutional court of **Mali has named Colonel Assimi Goïta,** the Mali's interim Vice President who led the military coup named as **the transitional President of Mali.** He led the 2021 coup against transitional President Bah Ndaw and Prime Minister Moctar who both resigned after failing to consult with him on a cabinet reshuffle. **Mali's** Capital– Bamako & Currency– West African CFA Franc.
Bashar al-Assad	President	Syria	Bashar al-Assad(55-year-old) was re-elected for a 4th seven-year term as the President of Syria. He received around

			95.1% of the votes cast and won the election against former state minister Abdallah Salloum Abdallah and Mahmud Merhi.He belong to Syrian Ba'ath Party.
Sir David Attenborough	People's Advocate	UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)	Sir David Attenborough, **world-renowned broadcaster and natural historian**, has been appointed as the People's Advocate for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)-2021, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK in November 2021.UK and Italy will host COP-26.As a People's Advocate, he will take action to tackle the issue of climate change.Indian Origin, Alok Sharma was the Britain's President-Designate of COP26.
Neera Tanden	Senior Adviser	White House	U.S administration has announced that Indian-American Neera Tanden is set to join the White House as a senior adviser to President Joe Biden.She is currently working as the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

PERSON NAME	BRAND / CAMPAIGN	KEY NOTES
Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu) and Michelle Li	Athlete Ambassador	Badminton World Federation **(BWF)** World Champion and Olympic medal winner **Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (PV Sindhu)** and **Michelle Li**, a Canadian badminton player have been named the athlete ambassador for International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s "Believe in Sports" Campaign. Both PV Sindhu and Michelle Li have been the global ambassador of the "I Am Badminton" Campaign of BWF since April 2020.

RESIGNATIONS

PERSON NAME	RESIGNED AS	ENTITY / PLACE
Bah N'Daw	Interim President	Interim President of **Mali Bah N'Daw and Moctar Ouane Prime minister of Mali** have resigned from their post after they were arrested by the Military, led by the interim Vice President Assimi Goita. **Reason for arrest -** Bah N'Daw and Moctar Ouane were arrested and resigned for violated the transitional charter by failing to consult with Assimi Goita about the new Cabinet.
Moctar Ouane	Prime minister	

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		✓ Both president and prime minister were released after the strong condemnation received from United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany and the West African regional bloc known as **ECOWAS.**

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

BRO appoints Vaishali S Hiwase as First Women Executive Engineer to command RCC

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
has appointed Vaishali S Hiwase as the first woman officer to command a Road Construction Company (RCC).
The officer would command the company, to provide connectivity in a high-altitude area along the India-China border.
She is a M.Tech graduate and has already carried out a demanding tenure in Kargil.

Vijay Goel Takes Additional Charge as the CMD of THDC India Ltd

Vijay Goel, Director (Personnel) of THDC India Limited (THDCIL) has taken over the additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of THDCIL from May 1, 2021.He Succeeds Dhirendra Veer Singh (DV Singh), whose tenure ends on April 30, 2021.

Indian-origin Immunologist Sankar Ghosh Elected to National Academy of Sciences

Indian-origin immunologist Sankar Ghosh has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences(NAS) in recognition of his "distinguished and continuing achievements in original research". He is one of the 120 newly elected members announced by the NAS.

Arvind Kumar to Become Next MD of Chennai Petroleum Corporation

Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has recommended Arvind Kumar as Managing Director(MD) of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd (CPCL), a unit of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.Arvind Kumar is currently working as an executive director at Indian Oil Corporation. Currently, CPCL's Director (Finance) Rajeev Ailawadi is holding the additional charge of CPCL's MD post.

Tenure of RAW chief Samant Kumar Goel, IB head Arvind Kumar Extended by 1 year

Union Government has extended the tenure of Research and Analysis Wing(RAW)'s secretary, Samant Kumar Goel and Intelligence Bureau (IB)'s head Arvind Kumar by one year. Samant Kumar Goel is the 1984-batch IPS officer from Punjab cadre. He is the 23rd secretary of RAW.

Group of Ministers set up to Evaluate GST Related to Casinos, Race course

Finance Ministry has set up a **7-member Group of States' Ministers (GoM)** to better understand, examine, and resolve the uncertainty over the valuation of services by casinos, race courses, and online gaming companies for levying Goods and Services Tax (GST).
They will submit the recommendation within 6 months to the GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

- ✓ **Committee Convened by** Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Nitin Patel.

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AWARDS

AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF ARTS & CULTURE FILMS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award	**Tyler Perry**	**Actor**	**American Actor Tyler Perry** received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, an Oscar statue, at the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscar 2021) Ceremony. He was honored for his contribution towards the recovery of the entertainment industry amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The award is named after Danish actor and translator Jean Pierre Carl Buron, professionally known as 'Jean Hersholt' who was a philanthropist
Annual World Choreography Award	Suresh Mukund	Best Choreography	Emmy Award-nominated choreographer Suresh Mukund became the 1st Indian to receive Annual World Choreography Award, he won the 10th Annual World Choreography Award 2020.He won the award in the best choreography category for a television reality show- World of Dance, The Kings.

AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SERVICE, SCIENCE & BRAVERY

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Princess of Asturias Award 2021	Amartya Kumar Sen	Social Science	Indian economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Kumar Sen won Spain's top award – Princess of Asturias Award 2021, under the Social Science category. **Honoured for** - His research on famines and his theory of human development, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance.

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AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Sportsman of the year	Rafael Nadal	Sports	22nd Laureus World Sports Awards 2021 held digitally **from Sevilla, Spain.** **Organized by -** Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. **Sportsman of the year title** - Spanish Tennis Player Rafael Nadal. **Sportswomen of the year title** - Japanese Tennis player Naomi Osaka. The awards are given across 6 Categories. Apart from the 6 categories, awards are also given for Lifetime Achievement, Athlete Advocate of the year, Sporting Inspiration & Sporting Moment of the Year award...Click here for complete award detail
Sportswomen of the year	Naomi Osaka		
Etienne Glichitch Award	Hockey India	Sports	Hockey India won the **Etienne Glichitch Award** in recognition of Hockey India's contribution towards the growth and development of Hockey. Various individuals, teams and organisations received the Fédération Internationale de Hockey(FIH) Honorary Awards at the virtual conference organised by the FIH as a part of its 47th Congress.
Europe's Golden Shoe also known as European Golden Boot	Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski	Sports	Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski from Poland was awarded with **Europe's Golden Shoe also known as European Golden Boot**, as he finished as the top scorer in Europe's leading domestic leagues. Argentina's Lionel Messi won the maximum number of awards (6 awards).The Award was presented by European Sports Media.

OTHER IMPORTANT AWARDS

AWARD NAME	AWARD WINNER	FIELD	KEY NOTES
Sheikh Zayed Book Award 2021	Tahera Qutbuddin	Book	During the digital ceremony of 15th annual Sheikh Zayed Book Award held in Abu Dhabi, awards were announced under 8 different book categories. Mumbai born American, Tahera Qutbuddin, became first Indian who won **Sheikh Zayed Book Award 2021** for her book titled "Arabic Oration: Art and Function".She is a professor of Arabic Literature, Department of NELC, University of Chicago.

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			Cultural Personality of the Year(2021) - Sheikh Zayed Book Award named Prominent German philosopher Juergen Habermas for this award but he refused to receive the award.
Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021	Gita Mittal	Justice	Justice Gita Mittal, former Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court became the first India Judge who received the **Arline Pacht Global Vision Award for 2021.** She shared the award with Justice Margarita Luna Ramos of Mexico. **Presented by -** International Association of Women Judges **(IAWJ).**
Green Urja Award 2021	IREDA	Green Energy Financing	Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) won the Green Urja Award 2021 for its developmental role towards the Green Energy Financing. The award was conferred by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).
Whitley Award 2021	Y Nuklu Phom	Biodiversity Peace Corridor	Y Nuklu Phom, a church worker from Nagaland, won the Whitley Award 2021 for his efforts toward creating "Biodiversity Peace Corridor", a network of community-owned forests in Nagaland and protecting the Amur Falcon. He is the only Indian to win the prestigious award. The Whitley Award is also known as the 'Green Oscar'.
International Invincible Gold Medal 2021	Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	Extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity	Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank was awarded International Invincible Gold Medal 2021 by Maharshi Organisation.He has been recognized for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
Miss Universe 2020	Andrea Meza	Mexican Model	**Mexican Model Andrea Mez a** was crowned as the Miss Universe 2020 in the television event. She became the 3rd Mexican woman to be crowned as Miss Universe. She is a software engineer. **Event held at** - Florida, United States.

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			Adeline Castelino of India was the 3rd Runner-up of Miss Universe 2020.
Best 'BMC' award	Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)	Environment	**Shergaon Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) of Arunachal Pradesh** has won the best 'BMC' award in the virtual 5th India Biodiversity Awards(IBA) 2021. The award programme marked the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2021. ✓ **Awards issued by** - Babul Supriyo ,Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The IBA is a joint initiative by MoEFCC, National Biodiversity Authority, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
Star Export House Award 2021	Shree Malani Foams Private Limited	-	**Shree Malani Foams Private Limited**, Hyderabad in Telangana won the Star Export House Award 2021 from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoCI). The certification is valid for 5 years between 2021 to 2026. Shree Malani Foams became the first and only mattress and mattress components company to win the award in the past 5 years.
Energy Frontier Award 2020	Chintamani Nages Ramachandra Rao	-	**Bharat Ratna Professor Chintamani Nages Ramachandra Rao (C.N.R. Rao)** has received the Energy Frontier Award 2020 also known as the International Eni Awards held at the Quirinal Palace in Rome, Italy. It marks the 13th edition of the Eni Awards and he received this award for research into renewable energy sources and energy storage. The award is considered the Nobel Prize in Energy Research.
Rudolf V Schindler Award 2021	Dr Duvvur(D) Nageshwar Reddy	Endoscopy	American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) has honoured **Dr Duvvur(D) Nageshwar Reddy** with the renowned **Rudolf V Schindler Award 2021 at the ASGE's 2021 Annual Crystal Awards virtual ceremony.** ✓ He is the first Indian medical practitioner to win this award for

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			his contribution in the field of endoscopy. Dr D Nageshwar Reddy also won the Padma Shri award in 2002 and Padma Bhushan award in 2016.
International Dublin Literary Award 2021	Valeria Luiselli	Novel	**Mexican author Valeria Luiselli** won the International Dublin Literary Award 2021 for her novel, Lost Children Archive. Valeria Luiselli was born in Mexico City and her essay collections include Sidewalks, Faces in the Crowd, The Story of My Teeth, and Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions.

RECOGNITIONS

NAME	RECOGNITION
Tashi Yangjom	Mountaineer, Tashi Yangjom from Arunachal Pradesh becomes the 1st Indian Woman Climber to Scale the World's highest Mountain, Mt Everest (Elevation of 8,849 Metres) in 2021. She was trained at the National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (NIMAS) in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS IN CONTENT FORMAT

KVG Bank Bags Top 5 PFRDA Awards

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), has bagged top 5 awards from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) due to the various campaigns held under KVGB for enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

- The 5 awards include – Lead to Leap, APY Makers of Excellence, Game Changers, Leadership Capital and Amazing Achievers.

Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema instituted in 2021

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(I&B) has instituted the "Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema" which will be given at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) every year starting from 2021.

- The award is instituted as a part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Awardee Satyajit Ray, who was born on 2nd May 1921 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Films Division will be creating a dedicated Satyajit Ray section at the National Museum of Indian Cinema, Mumbai.

11th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2021:

Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival Awards is presented to appreciate the talents in the film industry.It is annually organised on 30th April to mark the birth anniversary of Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, the father of Indian Cinema, who is fondly known as 'Dada Saheb Phalke'.

Best Film (Jury) award - "**Jungle Cry"** directed by Sagar Ballary.

Shyamala Ganesh Received the Order of The Rising Sun from The Consulate-General of Japan

Shyamala Ganesh,79, the former director of the Japanese Language School, received the 3rd highest order decoration of Japan, Order of the Rising Sun, under the class Gold and Silver Rays from the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This is the first time a Bengalurean has been conferred with the Japanese government's honour.

Indian UN Peacekeeping Officer Yuvraj Singh Honored by UN Secretary General

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres honored Indian UN Peacekeeping officer Yuvraj Singh, who died in line of duty in 2020, during the UN annual Memorial Service 2021.Permanent Representative of India to UN, T S Tirumurti saluted Yuvraj Singh's valour and contribution.

Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted won the World Food Prize 2021

Indian Descent Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, a native of Trinidad and Tobago and a citizen of Denmark won the 2021 World Food Prize for her research, insights and innovations in developing holistic, nutrition-sensitive approaches to aquaculture and food systems. She becomes the first woman of Asian heritage to receive this award.

Nepali Mingma Tenji Sherpa Sets World Record in Climbing

Nepali mountain guide, Mingma Tenji Sherpa, a 43-year-old, had created a world record by climbing 8848.86-meter-high Mount Everest(world's highest peak) twice in the shortest span of just four days. Previously, Indian mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa had held the record for fastest dual ascents on Mount Everest.

Fortune's List of World's 50 Greatest Leaders

Fortune Magazine released its 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 which is topped by New Zealand(NZ) Prime Minister(PM) Jacinda Ardern. Serum Institute of India's CEO Adar Poonawalla is on the 10th spot and he is the only Indian among the top 10 names on the list.

NBA Created Social Justice Award named after Kareem Abdul Jabbar

National Basketball Association (NBA) announced an award named after the former American basketball player – Kareem Abdul-Jabbar called the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award to recognize players who are making strides in the fight for social justice.

Two Indian Women Mountaineers Became first to Summit Mount Pumori

Baljeet Kaur of Himachal Pradesh and **Gunbala Sharma of Rajasthan** have become The First Indian Women Mountaineers to Summit Mount Pumori in Nepal. The two women are also the first ones to scale a mountain that is a part of the Everest Massif.

2020 Millennium Technology Prize by TAF

2020 Millennium Technology Prize is presented by the Technology Academy Finland (TAF). **Sauli Niinisto,** President of the Republic of Finland and the Patron of the prize presented the award over a virtual ceremony.

Prize Winners- Cambridge University chemists – Professor **Shankar Balasubramanian** and Professor **David Klenerman** for the development of revolutionary DNA sequencing techniques – Next Generation DNA Sequencing (NGS).

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Renowned Conservationist Jane Goodall Won The Templeton Prize 2021

Jane Goodall, an English primatologist,anthropologist and the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees received prestigious **Templeton Prize for the year 2021**.She was renowned for her expertise on chimpanzees and her globe-spanning advocacy of environmental causes. She was the first to observe human-like behaviours amongst chimpanzees.

Conor McGregor tops the Forbes' World's 10 Highest-paid Athletes 2021

Forbes' annual ranking of the World highest-paid athletes for 2021 was released. Mixed Martial Arts(MMA) Fighter Conor McGregor from Ireland topped the list with a total earning of 180 million USD(around 1313 crores). McGregor is followed by football players Lionel Messi (2nd) and Cristiano Ronaldo and American footballer Dak Prescott(4th).

Bernard Arnault overtakes Jeff Bezos to become world's richest person

According to the **Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, on 24th May 2021**, French tycoon Bernard Arnault, CEO and majority owner of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton(LVMH), became the world's richest person with an estimated net worth of 186.3 billion USD. He overtook Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon, whose net worth was 186 billion USD and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla whose net worth was 147.3 billion USD.

V Kartikeyan Pandian IAS honoured with FIH President's Award 2021

IAS officer **V Kartikeyan Pandian, the private secretary to Chief Minister of Odisha** ,Naveen Patnaik was honoured with the President's Award 2021 by the International Hockey Federation (Fédération Internationale de Hockey- FIH).

Honoured for - His contribution towards the promotion of Hockey in Odisha and his efforts during the Mency Hockey World Cup 2018 held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Mooofarm's Co-Founders Named in The 2021 Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List

Gurugram based startup MoooFarm's Co-founders Jitesh Arora, Abhijeet Mittal, and Aashna Singh have been placed in the most esteemed under Industry,Manufacturing and Energy category in 2021 Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list.

Jaipur based startup Nyaykarta's Founder,Shubham Sharma has also been placed in the 2021 Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list under the Social Impact category.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

SUMMITS

SUMMITS	VENUE	KEY POINTS
India-UK Virtual Summit 2021	Virtual Mode	**Held B/w** - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of United Kingdom Boris Johnson **'Roadmap 2030'** – adopted by both leaders to elevate bilateral ties to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. **Important launches & Initiatives** ❖ Launch of Enhanced Trade Partnership to double Bilateral trade between the 2 countries by 2030 (current level stands at GBP 23 Billion).

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		❖ Both Countries agreed to launch the Green Grids Initiative at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) 2021. ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Rolls-Royce to establish packaging, installation, marketing and services support for Rolls-Royce MT30 Marine engines in India. They also agreed/announced 9 MoUs /Declarations during the summit. Click here
Summit on the Financing of African Economies 2021	Paris, France	**Host country** – France Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan virtually represented India at the Summit on May 18, 2021. The event was held in a hybrid format (mix of in-person meetings & Video conferences). **Objective** - To arrange financial resources for reviving the economy of African Continent, which has been affected by COVID-19.

EVENTS

EVENTS	VENUE	KEY POINTS
India-Swiss Financial Dialogue	Virtual Mode	4th India-Swiss Financial Dialogue was held virtually. **Held in** - New Delhi, India. Indian delegation was led by the Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth, while his counterpart was Ms. Daniela Stoffel, State Secretary for International Finance, Switzerland.
Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (IHGF) 2021	Virtual Mode	**51st Edition of virtual Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (IHGF) 2021,** an India's largest Virtual Fair in the Home, Fashion, Lifestyle, Textiles and Furniture sector. IHGF is an exclusive Business-2-Business (B2B) online platform developed to assist buyers from all across the globe to source from India. ✓ **Organised by** - Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (**EPCH**) ✓ **Inaugurated by** - Chairman of EPCH Ravi K. Passi.

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COMMITTEES & MEETINGS

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE NAME	COMMITTEE HEAD	KEY NOTES
5-member Committee	Srikrishna Deva Rao	Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) appointed 5-member Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws to propose a separate Section in IPC on 'Offences relating to speech and expression'. Several 'hate speech' cases are pending in courts across India, as there is no clear definition of it in the Indian Penal Code, 1860. 5-member Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws headed by Vice Chancellor of National Law University (NLU), Delhi (Currently – Srikrishna Deva Rao).
12-member expert committee	Nilesh Shah	International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**), the regulator of GIFT- City, constituted a **12-member expert committee on investment funds** to recommend a roadmap to promote funds at International Financial Services Centres (IFSC).It aims to develop a comprehensive and consistent regulatory framework for Investment Funds based on global best practices with a special focus on ease of doing business. **Headed by** - Nilesh Shah, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd **Abbrev. of GIFT- City** :- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City

MEETINGS

MEETING NAME	VENUE	KEY POINTS
G-7 Digital & Technology Ministerial Meeting	Virtual Mode	**Indian representative -** Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology. **Meeting Chaired by** - Oiver Downden, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, UK. **2021 Presidency** – United Kingdom **Theme of the meeting** – 'Building Back Better'. ❖ The G-7 countries signed a Joint Ministerial Declaration at the end of the summit. 47th G7 Leaders' Summit (Annual Summit) 2021 will be hosted by the UK from June 11-13 2021 in Carbis Bay, UK.

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G20 Tourism Ministers' Virtual Meeting	Italy	**Indian Representative** - Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (I/c) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel. **Chaired by** – Mr. Massimo Garavaglia, Minister of Tourism,Government of Italy. ❖ India will support the Principles for the transition to a green travel and tourism economy submitted by United Nation World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as a further contribution to the policy area "Green Transformation" to embrace sustainability in tourism.
India-European Union (EU) Leaders Meeting 2021	Virtual Mode	Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually participated in the India-European Union (EU) Leaders Meeting 2021 along with the Heads of State of all the 27 EU Member States in hybrid format. **Hosted by** - PM of Portugal, Mr Antonio Costa (Portugal holds the Presidency of the Council of EU for the year 2021). During the meeting, India-EU launched Connectivity Partnership and signed Finance Contract for funding (2nd Tranche) for Pune Metro Rail project – Euro 150 million (~ INR 1, 335 Crore).
1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting	Virtual Mode	**1st BRICS Employment Working Group (EWG) Meeting** in virtual format was held on 11th – 12th May 2021 in Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. **Hosted by** – India which holds BRICS Presidency in 2021. C **Meeting Chaired by** - Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Labour and Employment. The agenda of the discussion were promoting Social Security Agreements(SSA) among BRICS Nations, participation of women in the labour force, formalisation of the labour markets, and Gig and platform workers – Role in the labour market.
ADB Annual Meeting 2021	Virtual Mode	Union Minister of Finance & ADB's Governor for India Nirmala Sitharaman participated in ADB's 54th Annual Meeting 2021, which took place virtually from May 3-5, 2021. Ahead of the 54th Annual Meeting, ADB outlined a 5-point agenda for the recovery in Asia and the Pacific in the

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		Post COVID-19 era. They are climate actions, addressing inequality, green and digital infrastructure, strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing domestic resource mobilization.
BRICS Astronomy Working Group (**BAWG**) Meeting	Virtual Mode	**Meeting name** -7th BRICS Astronomy Working Group (**BAWG**) of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. **Host Country** -India virtually host the meeting from Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune (Maharashtra). **Objective** - Highlighted the importance of increasing collaboration among astronomers from the BRICS countries. The participants recommended the networking of existing Telescopes in BRICS countries and creating a regional Data Network. **Highlights of India's input** - S. K. Varshney, Scientist G & Head International Cooperation presented India's (DST) perspectives on highlighting research activities and research infrastructure created by India.Prof. Ranjan Gupta is the Chairman of BAWG India.
Meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries	Virtual Mode	33rd virtual meeting of Health Ministers of Commonwealth countries was chaired by India's Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan. HarshVardhan mentioned India's intent to vaccinate the country's entire adult population by the end of 2021. **Theme of the meeting**: "Commonwealth Response to COVID-19: Ensuring Equitable Access to Vaccines and Building Resilience for Health Systems and Emergencies".
BRICS Working Group Meeting 2021	Virtual Mode	**4th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Working Group Meeting 2021** held virtually. ✓ **Host Country** – China , Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), China, and organized by the China National Center for Biotechnology Development. ✓ **Area of discussion** – Emerging issues in the field of Biotechnology and Biomedicine. **Indian side participants** - Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, Advisor & Head, International Cooperation Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST).

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COMMITTEES & MEETING IN CONTENT FORMAT

5th Session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)

Held virtually - April 20-29, 2021

Host Country - India

Inaugurated by - Rita Teaotia, Chairperson of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

Chairman of the Committee - Dr M.R. Sudharshan.

- Spices Board of India (under Ministry of Commerce & Industry) is the Secretariat of CCSCH.
- CCSCH has finalised and recommended quality standards for four spices; cloves, oregano, basil, and ginger.

INDEX

RANKING

INDEX / SURVEY NAME	RELEASED BY / CONDUCTED BY	KEY NOTES
Resilience COVID-19 Crisis Through a Migration Lens	World Bank	India received USD 83 Billion as Remittances in 2020 against 83.3 Billion in 2019. It topped the list of Low- and Middle-Income Countries with maximum Remittance Inflows, India was followed by China ,and Mexico. **Remittance outflows** - Remittance outflow was maximum from the United States (USD 68 Billion), followed by UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Remittances outflow from India in 2020 was USD 7 Billion, against USD 7.5 Billion in 2019. **Top 3 Country with Remittance inflow in 2020:** 1. India with USD 83 Billion 2. China with USD 59.5 Billion 3. Mexico with USD 42.8 Billion Click here
2021 Ranking of Global retail powerhouses	Deloitte	**Fastest-Growing Retailers** :- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ltd has been ranked the 2nd in this category and South Korea's Coupang is the World's 1st. **List of Global Powers:-** Retailing Reliance Retail Ltd was ranked 53rd (ranked 56th in 2020's list) and it was the only Indian entry in the global list of 250 retailers. US giant Walmart Inc and Amazon.com Inc were placed first and second respectively.
State of Indian Healthcare – Indian Cities through the lens of healthcare 2021	Housing.com	**Report Name** - 'State of Indian Healthcare – Indian Cities through the lens of healthcare 2021' **Released by** - Housing.com, a real estate portal Pune, Maharashtra is the healthiest city among the top 8 urban cities of India with regard to parameters

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		like number of hospital beds, ease of living, water quality, and local body performance. The top 3 cities are – Pune, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka).
Environmental Risk Outlook 2021'	Verisk Maplecroft	**Highlights** - According to the above report ,**India ranked 43** of the World's 100 most environmentally riskiest cities. Jakarta in Indonesia was ranked as the riskiest city in the world, followed by Delhi & Chennai (Tamil Nadu). Glasgow, Scotland was ranked as the safety city in the report.
Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI)	Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY)	**Index name** - 57th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) – May 2021, an biannual report being released since 2003. **Released by** - Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY) **Coutnry's Rank** - India ranked 3rd out of 40 countries. United States (US) topped the index, while China took the 2nd Rank.
Bloomberg Billionaires Index	Bloomberg	As on May 20, 2021, Jeff Bezos (United States) tops in Richest person in Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Tesla and SpaceX's Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk lost his world's 2nd-richest person to LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton's Chairman Bernard Arnault.Mukesh Ambani topped among Indians in the list. He was ranked 13th Globally.
Bloomberg Billionaire Index	Bloomber	According to the data released by Bloomberg Billionaire Index of Ranking of Asia's Richest Person, ✓ **Mukesh Ambani ,**Reliance Industries' chairman and India's richest man topped in the Asia's Richest Man-Bloomberg Billionaire Index and, **Gautam Adani** , Adani Group's founder and chairman became Asia's 2nd richest man.

REPORTS

REPORT NAME	SUBMITTED BY	KEY NOTES
Global EV Outlook 2021	International Energy Agency (IEA)	**Global EV Outlook 2021** - Annual Report of International Energy Agency (IEA) **Highlights of Report** - Sale of Electric Vehicles (EVs) will be more than 30% in India by 2030 and highlights the FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) and Electric Vehicles) scheme. **FAME Scheme (National Mission on Electric Mobility) -** Introduced by Government of India in 2015 to support electrification of public and shared transportation through subsidies.

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		• In 2020, Europe emerged as the World's Largest EV market for the 1st time, overtaking China.
Global Forests Goals Report 2021	UN DESA	**1.The Global Forests Goals Report 2021** - released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), COVID-19 • Report states that new challenges for countries to manage the forests due to COVID-19. • Presented the overview of progress achieved by Countries on 6 Global Fores Goals under the United Nations Strategi Plan for Forests 2017-2030. **2.'The World in 2030 - Public Survey Report'** -released by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). • Around 67% of the people chose Climate change and loss of biodiversity as the biggest challenges facing the earth.
Special 301 Report	United States Trade Representative	According to the **Special 301 report**, India, along with eight other countries has been placed on the "**Priority Monitoring List**" for IP security and enforcement. **Report Released by** - United States Trade Representative The report basically lists the countries that do not provide sufficient Intellectual Property (IP) rights to American companies.
Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions	CCAC & UNEP	**Report name -** 2021 Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions **Released by** - Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) & United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). **Result** - Human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by 45% in this decade (2020-30), these reductions would avoid 0.3°C of Global Warming by 2045.

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Global Report on Food Crises 2021 (GRFC)	GNAFC	**Report Name** - 'Global Report on Food Crises 2021 (GRFC)' (5th Edition, Annual Report) **Launched by** - Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), **Result** - At least 155 million people (an increase of 20 million people from 2019) faced Acute Food Insecurity in 2020 due to conflicts, extreme weather & economic shocks caused by COVID-19. ❖ GRFC is an initiative of the Global Network against Food Crises (GNFC) facilitated by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and its 16 global and regional partners.
Nature in a Globalized World: Conflict & Conservation	IUCN	**Report name** - Nature in a Globalized World: Conflict & Conservation, the 1st report in IUCN's Nature in a globalized world report series. **Released by** - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). **Highlights** - Civil unrest and military exercises pose high risk to 219 Endangered Species (out of 30, 178 species assessed as threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species). Notable among them are the Critically-endangered Eastern Gorilla & Elephant populations.
Estimates of Global e-commerce 2019 and preliminary assessment of covid-19 impact on online retail 2020	UNCTAD	**Report name** - 'Estimates of Global e-commerce 2019 and preliminary assessment of covid-19 impact on online retail 2020'. **Released by** - UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) **Report Estimates –** ❖ Online Sales accounted for 19% (from 16% in 2019) of Overall Retail Sales in 2020. ❖ Countries which reported the highest are South Korea ,China ,Britain and the United States . ❖ Global e-commerce reached USD 26.7 Trillion in 2019.

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Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat	NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) & Mastercard	**Report name** - 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat' **Released by** - NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) & Mastercard. FTI Consulting was the Research and Curation Partner of the report. **Highlights** - It identifies the challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to 1.3 Billion citizens of India.
Market Handbook 2020-21 (Annual Issue)	CEEW-CEF	**Report name** - ' Market Handbook 2020-21 (Annual Issue)' **Released by -** Council on Energy, Environment and Water-Centre for Energy Finance (CEEW-CEF) **Highlights of report** - India added 12.1 GigaWatt (GW) power generation capacity in 2020-21, of which 7.7 GW was from renewable energy sources (64%), followed by coal/lignite (3.9 GW) segment. **Target** - India Targets 175 GW Renewable Energy by 2022.
Automotive Export Manual 2021-South Africa' report	AIEC	**Report name -** Automotive Export Manual 2021-South Africa' report. **Released by** - Automotive Industry Export Council (**AIEC**), a South African export promotion body for automotive industry. **Highlights of Report** :- India was the top country in terms of volume by importing 43.2% (87, 953 units) of passenger cars & Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) into South Africa in 2020 despite COVID-19 lockdowns & global decline in vehicle sales. India also topped based on Rand Value term accounting for 22.1% of total Import Value of South Africa. India was followed by Germany (19.9%).
Renewable Energy Market Update – Outlook for 2021 and 2022	IEA	**Report name** - 'Renewable Energy Market Update – Outlook for 2021 and 2022'

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		Released by - International Energy Agency (**IEA**), Paris-based autonomous body **Highlights** - India's Renewable Energy capacity addition declined by almost 50% to 5.62 GigaWatts (GW) in 2020 (compared to 2019) due to COVID-19. **At the Global level,** the annual renewable capacity additions increased 45% to almost 280 GW (up from 190 GW in 2019), which is the highest year-on year increase since 1999.
Over 100 Years of Snow Leopard Research	World Wide Fund for Nature **(WWF**)	**Highlights** - More than **70% of the habitat of the snow leopard (Panthera uncia)** over 12 Asian countries remain under-researched. Only 23% of snow leopard's 1.7 million sq km habitat have been explored. The proportion of area within each country covered by research was highest in Nepal (74%), followed by India (40%), Uzbekistan (39%) and China and Russia (25%).
Net Zero by 2050	International Energy Agency (IEA)	**Highlights** - Halting new oil, gas, and coalfields will be key to achieving Net Zero Global Carbon emissions by 2050. Achieving Net Zero emissions is vital to limit the increase in average global temperatures to less than 1.5 degree Celsius.
Global Trade Update (May 2021)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development **(UNCTAD)**	**Highlights** -India, China, and South Africa performed 'relatively better' than other major economies in imports & exports during the 1st Quarter of 2021.The overall forecast for 2021 indicates an 16% growth in Global Trade – 19% for Goods and 8% for services. At the Global level, Trade in goods and services increased by 10% year-over-year.
2021 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID): Internal displacement in a changing climate	IDMC	**Report name** - '2021 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID): Internal displacement in a changing climate', Global Annual Report **Released by** - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) **Highlights** - The number of people living in Internal displacement reached 55 Million at the end of 2020 globally. The highest number was in China (5 Million), followed by Philippines & Bangladesh. India has the highest levels of displacement due to Disaster in South Asia and Global level.

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Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021	Knight Frank	**Report name -** Prime Global Cities Index Q1 2021 , a valuation based on the prime residential prices in the local currency across more than 45 cities across the globe. **Released by** - Knight Frank, London based International Property Consultant **India's Performance** - Delhi ranked 32 and Mumbai ranked 36 in Q1 2021 Index. **Top 3 Cities:** Chinese cities Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou are the top 3 in the Q1 2021 index. New York was identified as the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth.

RANKING & REPORTS IN CONTENT FORMAT

Global FDI flows fall by 38% in 2020, India 3rd Largest Recipient: OECD Data

Global FDI (Foreign Direct Investments) dropped by 38% in 2020 compared to 2019 to USD 846 Billion, which is a 15-year low (lowest since 2005).

Data Released by - Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (**OECD**).

- India became the **3rd Largest Recipient of FDI inflows** in 2020 with an inflow of USD 64 Billion.
- China became the largest Recipient of FDI overtaking the United States for the 2nd time in six years, while Luxembourg finished 4th.

ACQUISITION & MERGERS

DCB Bank Acquired Stake Worth 10 Crore from GIFT City's India ICC & India INX

DCB Bank headquartered at Mumbai, Maharashtra has acquired Rs.10 Crore worth stake in India International Exchange Ltd (India INX), India International Clearing Corporation Ltd (India ICC) leading companies in GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

- Both India INX and India ICC were promoted by the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and regulated by IFSC.

Motilal Oswal PE Acquired a Minority stake in Fincare Small Finance Bank

Acquisition b/w - Motilal Oswal Private Equity (MOPE) acquired a minority stake in Fincare Small Finance Bank (Fincare SFB)

Cost detail - $25 million (about ₹185 crores) through a secondary acquisition.

- Secondary Acquisition – It means the acquisition of existing shares of the company by the trust on the platform of a recognized stock exchange for cash consideration.

Carlyle Sells 4% Stake in SBI Life

Carlyle Group's CA Emerald Investment sold a 4% stake (amounting to 4.1 crore shares) in SBI Life Insurance for over Rs 3,900 crore through an open market transaction.

- After the transaction, SBI Life's shares rose 3.22 percent to settle at Rs 1,000.50 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

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By the end of FY21, Carlyle Group held a 6 percent stake in SBI Life through its investment arm CA Emerald Investments.

Imola Acquisition Corporation acquires Ingram Micro Inc.

Imola Acquisition Corporation received approval from Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire 100% shareholding and sole control of Ingram Micro Inc. and its parent companies GCL Investment Management Inc., GCL Investment Holding Inc., along with direct and indirect subsidiaries. Imola Acquisition Corporation is an entity incorporated recently by Platinum Equity Group.

CPP acquired additional 15% stake of Indinfravit

Acquisition b/w - Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments) and IndInfravit Trust, an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT).
CPP Investment already owns 27.9% of Indifravit. Now it has acquired an additional 15% stake, increased its overall stake to 43.8%.
Amount of acquisition - Rs 1,005 crore (~173 million Canadian dollars).

MMFS Extended the Date of Investment in Sri Lanka's Ideal Finance

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services (MMFS) has extended the date of investment of the third and final tranche for the acquisition of shares of Sri Lankan non-banking financial company **Ideal Finance Ltd** (from its existing shareholders) to September 30, 2021 due to COVID-19 crisis.

Bay Tree India Holdings sells over 2% stake in Yes Bank

Bay Tree India Holdings I, owned by Tilden Park has sold over 2 percent stake in YES Bank through open market transactions. Bay Tree India Holdings I LLC now has a stake of 40 percent in YES Bank.

CCI Approved IBM's Restructuring Plan

Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the green channel notice filed by Kyndryl Holdings LLC and Grand Ocean Managed Infrastructure Services Private Limited in relation to the internal restructuring of International Business Machines Corporation (IBM Corporation).

NHPC to acquire 2% equity stake in Chenab Valley Power Projects

Ministry of Power has approved the State-run hydro power NHPC Ltd to acquire the 2% equity stake of Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Ltd. from PTC India. Now, after the acquisition, NHPC's share in Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Ltd increased to 51 percent and became the majority stakeholder of it.

Groww Acquired Indiabulls MF for Rs 175 crore

Groww, an online investment platform, operated by Nextbillion Technology Pvt. Ltd made an agreement with Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBHFL) to acquire the mutual fund(MF) business of its subsidiaries Indiabulls Asset Management Company Ltd (IAMCL) and Trustee Company of IAMCL, for Rs 175 crore (including cash and cash equivalents of Rs 100 crore).

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PCHFL Received CCI Approval To Acquire DHFL

Acquisition b/w - Piramal Capital and Housing Finance (PCHF), a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises (PE) and Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL).

- PCHF received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire DHFL Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the resolution plan of PE to acquire DHFL through PCHF with a total payment of around Rs 35,000 crores.

GPL to Acquire YES AMC ; Adani port to Acquire remaining Stake of Krishnapatnam Port

1.Acquisition b/w - GPL Finance and Investments Limited(**GPL**) & YES Asset Management Company (AMC) (India) of YES Trustee Limited (YES Trustee).

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 100 percent equity shares of YES (AMC) (India)(YES AMC) by GPL. Through these acquisitions, GPL will acquire Yes Mutual Fund.

2. Acquisition b/w - Adani Krishnapatnam Port Limited(AKPL) by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited(APSEZL) and Vishwa Samudra Holdings.

- CCI approved the acquisition of the remaining 25% shareholding of AKPL by APSEZL from Vishwa Samudra Holdings for Rs 2,800 crore.

Govt Sold its 58 million shares in the Axis Bank

The government(govt) sold 58 million shares or 1.95 per cent stake in Axis Bank, which is held through the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) to raise around Rs 4,000 crore. The shares are sold through the offer for sale (OFS) route.

Adani Green to Acquire SB Energy India for EV of $3.5 billion

Acquisition b/w - Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) & SB Energy Holdings Limited .
AGEL agreed to acquire the 100 percent stake of SB Energy Holdings Limited at an enterprise valuation(EV) of ~ $3.5 billion, the largest acquisition in the renewable energy sector in India. Through this, AGEL's intent to become the world's largest solar player by 2025 and thereafter the world's largest renewable company by 2030.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Buys 46.7% stake in Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund

Kotak Mahindra Bank acquired 1.3 crore shares i.e., around 46.7% equity of Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund Limited(KMPFL) from Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited(KMAMC). The cost of acquisition is Rs 12.71 crore.

MRPL Acquired 100% Stake in ONGC Mangalore

Acquisition b/w - Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) & ONGC Mangalore Petrochemicals Ltd (OMPL)
MRPL acquired the outstanding 0.00027776 percent equity holding of OMPL from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).After this acquisition OMPL, the subsidiary of MRPL became the wholly-owned subsidiary of MRPL, as MRPL now acquired the 100 percent stake of OMPL.

LIC Hiked its Stake in Union Bank to over 5%

Acquisition b/w - Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) & Union Bank of India(UBI)
LIC acquired around a 2 percent stake in the state-run Union Bank of India(UBI) and hiked its stake hold in UBI to 5.06 percent. Earlier, the LIC held a 3.09 percent stake in UBI, representing 19,79,23,251 equity shares of the bank, now it was increased to 5.06 percent (34,57,64,764 shares).

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HDFC Ltd Sold 3.08 percent Stake of RInfra

Housing Development Finance Corporation **(HDFC)** Ltd, an Indian financial services company, sold further 81,05,677 shares equivalent to 3.08 percent share capital of Reliance Infrastructure Limited **(RInfra)** for worth over Rs 43.91 crore.HDFC held these shares on account of invocation of pledge through Axis Trustee Services.

CCI Approved Intra-group Reorganisation of Motherson Group

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the intra-group reorganization of the Motherson Group under the green channel route which was proposed by Motherson Sumi Systems Limited (MSSL), Samvardhana Motherson International Limited (SAMIL), and Sumitomo Wiring Systems Limited (SWS).

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
DEFENDER-Europe 21	US and NATO Countries	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) launched the Joint Multinational Military Exercise 'DEFENDER-Europe 21' in the port of Durres in Albania. DEFENDER-Europe 21' is led by the United States (US). **Duration** - April 26, 2021 to June 10, 2021.
PASSEX	Southern Arabian sea, Indian and Indonesian Navies	Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Southern Arabian sea. **Aim** - To improve interoperability and understanding between the Navy units of two countries. **Indian participants** - Indian Navy, INS Sharda, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) with a Chetak helicopter. **Indonesian participants** - Indonesian Navy, KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Navy Launches Operation Samudra Setu-II

Operation Samudra Setu-II - Shipment of Liquid oxygen-filled cryogenic containers & associated medical equipment to India from other countries.

- Indian Navy deployed 7 Indian Naval ships (INS) viz. INS Kolkata, INS Kochi, INS Talwar, INS Tabar, INS Trikand, INS Jalashwa and INS Airavat for this operation.
- It is part of the ongoing national mission for meeting Oxygen requirements in India.

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Indian Navy hosts GMS-21 Virtually

Indian Navy hosted '**GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM(GMS)**-21' virtually for 2 days, from 11th & 12th May 2021,

Theme for GMS-21 : "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies".

Participants - 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries (India, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand).

BEML launches Minefield Marking Equipment for Indian Army

BEML Ltd (formerly known as Bharat Earth Movers Ltd) launched the first prototype of Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for the Indian Army.The equipment has been built on BEML TATRA 6X6, 'Atmanirbhar' product.

It has been developed through Technology of Transfer (ToT) from Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers), a lab of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation).

Indian Navy's 1st Destroyer 'INS Rajput' decommissioned after 41 years of Service

Indian Navy's 1st destroyer **INS Rajput** was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** after 41 years of service (commissioned on May 4, 1980). It was the 1st Indian Navy ship to be associated with an Indian Army Regiment – 'Rajput regiment', and the 1st ship to be fitted with anti-ship supersonic cruise missile 'Brahmos' in 2005.

The destroyer was built by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) under her Russian name 'Nadezhny' in Nikolaev, present-day Ukraine.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

SATELLITE NAME	COUNTRY	PURPOSE
60 Starlink Internet satellites	USA	SpaceX launched another batch of 60 Starlink Internet satellites into Orbit from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. The satellites were launched aboard the Falcon 9 Rocket. It was the 13th Launch of 2021 for SpaceX. So far in 2021, SpaceX has launched 610 Starlink Satellites into space.
Yaogan-34 remote sensing satellite	China	China has successfully launched **Yaogan-34 remote sensing satellite** by the Long March 4C rocket which took off from the Jiuquan launch base in the Gobi Desert of northwestern China. This will provide support for the implementation of major national strategies and the modernization of national defense.

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DOGE-1	USA	SpaceX is set to launch the '**DOGE-1'** Satellite to the Moon in 2022. It will be launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon9 rocket. ❖ Satellite is being developed by Geometric Energy Corporation (**GEC**), a Canada based intellectual property, manufacturing and logistics firm. SpaceX will accept the cryptocurrency 'Dogecoin' as full payment for the mission. It will be the 1st ever commercial lunar payload in history to be paid entirely with a Cryptocurrency.
Yaogan-30 (08) remote sensing satellites	China	**Satellite name** - Yaogan-30 (08) remote sensing satellites **Location** - Xichang Satellite Launch Center, China. It was China's 13th launch of 2021 & 369th mission of the Long March rocket series. **'Tianqi-12'** – a small satellite for Internet of Things (IoT) data connectivity built by Beijing based firm 'Guodian Gaoke' was also launched. **The debris** from China's Long March-5B Y2 rocket, fell in the Indian Ocean near Maldives.
Haiyang-2D (HY-2D)	China	**Satellite name** - 'Haiyang-2D (HY-2D)' Ocean Observation Satellite China launched the above Ocean Observation Satellite into the Orbit. It was launched by a Long March-4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, Gobi Desert, China. The satellite has been developed by the China Academy of Space Technology.It was the 370th launch by the Long March rocket series.
SBIRS Geo-5	United Launch Alliance (ULA), an American spacecraft launch service	**Satellite name** - Space-Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit Flight 5 (**SBIRS Geo-5**) **Launched by** - United Launch Alliance (ULA), an American spacecraft launch service **Objective** – It is a missile warning satellite built by Lockheed Martin or the United States Space Force (USSF). It will help the US to prepare for any threatening missile attacks. The satellite was launched aboard the Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, USA.
60 more Starlink Broadband Satellites	USA	SpaceX launched 60 more Starlink Broadband Satellites into orbit. The satellites were launched on a Falcon 9 Rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida, USA. It was SpaceX's 16th launch of 2021, and the 2nd flight for the particular Falcon 9 reusable rocket.

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OTHER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NEWS

NATIONAL

Indian Scientists developed High-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean

- **MACS 1407**, a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean using the method of conventional cross breeding.
- **Developed by** – Indian scientists of MACS (Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science Research Institute)-Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi.
- The new variety MACS 1407 gives 39 quintals per hectare.

Scientists Discovered Smallest Blackhole in Milky Way Galaxy named "The Unicorn"

Scientists have discovered the smallest known black hole in the Milky Way Galaxy and the closest black hole to the solar system. This black hole has been nicknamed **"the Unicorn".**

- The black hole is around 3 times the mass of the Sun, is located around 1500 light-years from earth.
- The black hole is a part of the binary star system named **V723 Mon** in which a star called Red Giant orbits the black hole.

HAL's ALH Dhruv MkIII Undergone Deck Operation Trials

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's(HAL) Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv MK III Maritime Variant (MR) 2.5t helicopter has successfully demonstrated its deck-operations capabilities and flight operation trials aboard an Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Sujay at Chennai Coast, Tamil Nadu.

- The helicopters are equipped with Shakti engines and an advanced glass cockpit.
- These helicopters have Automatic Identification System (AIS), High-Intensity Search Light (HISL), Integrated Architecture Display System (IADS), Surveillance Radar, Electro-Optic Infra-Red (EO-IR) system, and 12.7 mm Cabin Mounted Gun, etc.

Facebook Launched in App Vaccine Finder Tool in India

Facebook and Government of India to launch the Vaccine Finder Tool on the mobile application – **Facebook** – in India.

The app available in 17 languages, will enable the public to locate the nearby place to get vaccinated.

Facebook has also announced a 10 million USD grant to India for COVID-19 rescue.

Chennai-based CIBA developed India's 1st vaccine, "CIBA-Nodavac-R" for VNN diseases in fish

Chennai-based Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture **(CIBA)** has developed India's first vaccine, **"CIBA-Nodavac-R"** for the viral nervous necrosis (VNN) disease.It caused by the nervous necrosis virus (NNV) which affecting various species of fish.

- The VNN diseases affect various brackishwater and freshwater fish causing up to 100% mortality in larval and early juvenile stages.
- Red-spotted grouper nervous necrosis virus (RGNNV) is a common genotype in India.

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'VINCOV-19' - to treat COVID-19 cleared for clinical trials

The Drugs Controller General of India, the apex body for clinical trials in India, has given approval to Hyderabad-based immunological company **VINS Bioproducts** to test its Covid-19 antibody product **VINCOV-19.**

- **VINCOV-19** is an antibody product obtained after immunization of horses with inactivated SARS-CoV-2 virus in combination with adjuvants.

This product is a collaborative effort of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and Vins Bioproducts Ltd,Hyderabad.

World's First AI Ship to Navigate across The Atlantic

World's First Artificial Intelligence(AI) Ship named **"Mayflower 400".**

- It is set to Navigate Across Atlantic Ocean.It is an Unmanned Vessel & was built by the marine research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM.

Mayflower 400 is a completely autonomous ship. It is a 15-m-long trimaran that weighs 9 tons.

DRDO's CAIR Developed AI Tool for COVID-19 Detection

Name of AI Tool - ATMAN AI.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'s Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) in association with 5C Network & HCG Academics has developed this Artificial Intelligence tool for COVID-19 detection from chest X-rays.

Reliance Jio constructing Largest International Submarine Cable System in India

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (Jio), a subsidiary of Jio Platforms Ltd is constructing the largest international submarine cable system in India and it becomes the center of the submarine cable system. It is the 1st time in history of Fiber optic submarine telecommunications that India will be at the center of the International network map.

DRDO's 1st batch of Anti-COVID-19 drug '2-DG' has been released

Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh released the 1st batch of **Anti-COVID-19 therapeutic drug '2-DG (2-deoxy-D-glucose)**'. It is the 1st indigenous therapeutic drug developed by India to fight COVID-19.

Drug Developed by - The Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) in collaboration with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad, Telangana.

Supreme Court Launches App for Journalists

Supreme Court came up with a mobile app to enable journalists to report virtual proceedings without having to visit court premises due to COVID-19.

Launched by - Chief Justice of India NV Ramana

CJI also launched a new feature in the Supreme Court's official website called '**Indicative Notes'**, aimed at providing concise summaries of landmark judgments in an easy-to-understand format.

DRDO develops 'DIPCOVAN' – COVID-19 Antibody Detection Kit

DIPCOVAN (DIPAS-VDx COVID-19 lgG Antibody Microwell ELISA), an Indigenous COVID-19 Antibody detection-based kit was developed by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (**DIPAS**), a unit under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).

- ✓ It is set to be used for Sero-surveillance. Sero surveillance is conducted to ascertain the spread of COVID-19 in an area & also gauging a person's previous exposure to the virus.

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Microsoft Announced the retirement of Internet Explorer in 2022

Microsoft has announced that its Internet Explorer 11 desktop application will retire and go out of support on 15th June 2022 for certain versions of Windows 10. Internet Explorer, which was launched in 1995, holds only a 3.8% share of the desktop browser space which is dominated by Google's Chrome with 70% share.

DRDO develops Isothermal Forging Technology for Aero Engines

Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (**DMRL**), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation **(DRDO**) has developed an Indigenous Isothermal Forging Technology for manufacturing critical components like discs, shafts and blisks etc of Adour engine (which powers Jaguar Attack Aircraft) & Kaveri engine. With this, India joins a league of limited global engine developers which have the manufacturing capability of such critical aero engine components.

Mylab Coviself :India's First Home Covid Test Kit By Mylab Discovery Solutions

Pune-based company **MyLab Discovery Solutions** has developed **India's first self-use Rapid Antigen Test Kit** for Covid-19 called Mylab CoviSelf.It has been approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).As per the ICMR's guidelines,the self-use test kit can be used by symptomatic individuals and immediate contacts of confirmed cases.

Bengaluru based Space Transportation Tests India's 1st Privately built Hall-effect Thruster

India's 1st Privately Build Hall-effect Thruster, a highly efficient electric propulsion system for microsatellites has been successfully tested by **Bellatrix Aerospace**, a Bengaluru based Space Transportation.

Tested Location – Spacecraft Propulsion Research Laboratory set up by Bellatrix at Society for Innovation and Development-Indian Institute of Science (SID-IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka. Bellatrix Aerospace is an IISc incubated startup established in 2015.

IIT Ropar & Monash University develop unique detector 'FakeBuster'

FakeBuster' , a unique detector developed by **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar, Punjab along with Monash University, Australia** using DeepFake detection technology to detect imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge. It helps to find out faces manipulated on social media to defame or make joke of someone.

INTERNATIONAL

Oxygen Produced from Mars for the 1st Time: NASA

- NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Rover **'Perseverance'** landed on Mars in February, 2021.
- **'MOXIE'** - Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment, an instrument produced Oxygen from Mars.
- It is the 1st time that Oxygen is being produced on another planet. The atmosphere on Mars is about 95% carbon dioxide.

World's Largest Aeroplane built by Stratolaunch

World's Largest Aeroplane codenamed 'Roc' successfully completed its 2nd Test Flight.

Built by - Stratolaunch, an US based Aerospace Company

Testing location - Mojave Air and Space Port in California, US.

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SpaceX Returns 4 Astronauts to Earth from ISS

SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, **'Resilience'** carrying 4 astronauts returned from the International Space Station(**ISS)** and splashdown into the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Panama City, Florida, USA after a six-and-a-half-hour flight.

- Apollo 8—NASA's first flight to the moon with astronauts ended with a predawn splashdown in the Pacific near Hawaii on Dec. 27, 1968.
- 4 Astronauts - Victor Glover, Mike Hopkins and Shannon Walker (3 Americans) and Soichi Noguchi (Japanese).
- The 167-day mission was the longest for a crew capsule launching from the U.S.

Lightest form of Uranium called Uranium-214 Created

Scientists have created the new uranium isotope called Uranium-214.

Location - Heavy Ion Research Facility in Lanzhou, China.

This is the lightest ever known and is much lighter than more common uranium isotopes. This discovery helps to reveal more about an alpha particle that gets ejected from certain radioactive elements as they decay.

GSR's Patania II – Mining Robot Stranded on Pacific Ocean during Trial

Global Sea Mineral Resources (GSR)'s Patania II, a deep-sea mining prototype robot, was stranded on the Pacific Ocean floor following a malfunction during a deep-sea mining trial.

- During the final dive in the GSR area, a lifting point separated and the robot was stranded on the seafloor.
- The Patania II, a 25-tonne mining robot prototype, was developed to explore and collect the rocks rich in cobalt and nickel from the floor of the Pacific Ocean at a depth of more than 13000 feet (4 km).

SpaceX's Starship Rocket Prototype achieves 1st Successful Landing

SpaceX successfully completed the high-altitude ascent & landing of Starship Rocket Prototype 'SN15' for the 1st time. It was launched from Boca Chica, Texas, US.

- SN15's successful landing came on the 60th anniversary of the flight of Alan Shepard, 1st American in space.
- US Space Agency NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has awarded a USD 2.9 Billion contract to SpaceX to take astronauts from lunar orbit to the surface of the moon. The contract is part of the Artemis program.

NASA's Parker Solar Probe detected radio signal from Venus

NASA Spacecraft Parker Solar Probe has discovered a natural radio signal from Venus when the space probe flew over the upper atmosphere of Venus.

- According to the findings of Parker Solar Probe, just like the earth, planet Venus also has an electrically charged layer of gas in its upper atmosphere called the ionosphere.
- The space probe has also confirmed that the upper Venus atmosphere undergoes changes over a solar cycle.

World's first 2 nanometer chip technology unveiled by IBM

International Business Machines (IBM) unveils the world's first 2 nanometer chip technology that promises to speed up access to the Internet, longer battery life and faster processing time in applications.

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It is projected to achieve 45 percent higher performance, or 75 percent lower energy use, than today's most advanced 7 nm node chip.

NASA Spacecraft OSIRIS-REx Heads for Earth With Sample of Asteroid Bennu

National Aeronautics and Space Administration(NASA)'s Spacecraft Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (OSIRIS-REx), started its 2-year long journey towards earth with the samples- rocks and dust -collected from the Asteroid Bennu. The Spacecraft will orbit the sun twice before delivering the samples to the Earth in September 2023.

Google partners with SpaceX to provide Starlink Internet Service

Google Cloud is set to partner with SpaceX to provide Cloud services to help deliver high speed internet through **SpaceX's Starlink satellites**. As part of the partnership, SpaceX will install Starlink terminals (ground stations) at Google data centers across the world.

China's 1st Mars Rover Lands on the Utopia Planitia, Mars

Chinese Spacecraft **Tianwen 1 carrying rover Zhurong** landed on Utopia Planitia region, Mars successfully.This makes China only the second country after the US to send a rover to the surface of the Red Planet.

Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin Sets 1st Space Tourism Flight in July 2021

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's rocket company, Blue Origin, announced the first flight that aboard its New Shepard rocket, and crew capsule which is designed to carry up to 6 tourists per flight, beyond an invisible line, known as the Karman line, which
separates Earth from space.The first flight is scheduled to take place in July 20,2021.

Europe's Jupiter Spacecraft 'JUICE' enters Testing Phase

Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer **(JUICE**), an interplanetary spacecraft being developed by European Space Agency (ESA) has entered into a crucial testing phase. It is being tested at ESA's European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in the Netherlands.

NASA's Giant Webb Telescope Successfully Completes Pre-Launch Test

World's largest and most powerful space science telescope, James Webb Space Telescope, Successfully Completed its Pre-Launch Test by opening its iconic primary mirror for the last time it is on earth. In the Final Test,the 6.5-meter mirror was commanded to fully expand and lock itself into place, to ensure that it will survive its million-mile (1.6 million kilometer) journey and is ready to discover the origins of the Universe.

Iran Launched its Most Powerful Supercomputer

Iran has launched its most powerful supercomputer '**Simorgh**' which was designed by the Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT) at a cost of 1 trillion Iranian rials (around Rs 173 crore).
Simorgh is named after the mythical **Phoenix-like bird Simorgh or Simurgh**.The system is located at the Iranian High-Performance Computing Research Center (IHPCRC) at AUT.

NASA's 1st Mobile Robot 'VIPER' To Launch On Moon in 2023

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced the plan to send its first mobile robot Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) to the Moon in 2023.This is a part of the Artemis program. It will map and explore the moon's resources on and under the lunar surface, particularly water-ice.

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IAU approves 8 Features on Moon with Chinese names

International Astronomical Union (IAU)'s Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (**WGPSN**) gave approval for naming 8 features in the Moon with Chinese names around the location where China's Chang'e-5 Spacecraft landed in December 2020.

- ✓ Chang'e-5 brought back fresh Lunar samples to Earth, which was previously bought 40-years back by the USA's 1969 Apollo 11 Mission.

World's First Global, Satellite-Based Reef-Monitoring System Launched By Scientists

First global, satellite-based reef surveillance tool to monitor the coral bleaching issue has been launched by scientists working with the **Allen Coral Atlas,a research initiative** developed by Arizona State University (ASU), the University of Queensland, the National Geographic Society, Planet, and Vulcan.

SPORTS

CRICKET

Sri Lankan Cricketer Thisara Perera retires from International Cricket

Sri Lanka all-rounder and former limited overs captain for Sri Lanka – Thisara Perera announced his retirement from International Cricket at the age of 32.
Thisara Perera has represented Sri Lanka in 6 Tests, 166 One Day Internationals (ODIs) & 84 Twenty20 Internationals (T20I).

ICC Banned Sri Lanka's Nuwan Zoysa from Cricket for 6 years due to Corruption

In April 2021, the International Cricket Council (ICC) banned Sri Lanka's former cricket player and coach Nuwan Zoysa for 6 years from all forms of cricket after found breaching the ICCs anti-corruption code. On October 31, 2018, he was provisionally suspended by ICC.

ICC Men's Team Ranking 2021 Annual Update

International Cricket Council(ICC) released the men's team rankings following the annual update carried out on 3rd May 2021.
Twenty20(T20):-India has retained its 2nd place on the ICC team ranking in the Twenty20(T20) Format.England placed 1st position.
ODI Ranking :-India has dropped to the 3rd position in the ODI Ranking.1st is New Zealand and 2nd is Australia.

Cricket : England player Harry Gurney announces Retirement

England's Fast bowler Harry Frederick Gurney announced his retirement from Cricket at the age of 34.He has represented the England Cricket Team in 10 One Day Internationals (ODIs) & 2 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). He picked up 11 wickets in 10 ODIs & 3 wickets in his T20I career.

India retains top spot in ICC Test Team rankings after annual update

India remained the number one Test side after the annual update of the ICC team rankings followed by New Zealand & England, Ravichandran Ashwin Remains In Second Position in ICC Test Player Rankings for Bowling, he is the only Indian bowler to feature in the top ten ICC rankings, Australian Bowler Pat Cummins who tops the list.

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Ireland and England Fast-Bowler Boyd Rankin Retires from International Cricket

Former Ireland and England fast bowler Boyd Rankin announced his retirement from international cricket ending an 18 yearlong cricket career. Boyd Rankin is the only cricketer who have played for two countries in all three formats of the game.

Asia Cup 2021 Postponed to 2023 by ACC

2021 edition of the Asia Cup has been postponed by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) to be held in 2023 due to COVID-19. ACC had postponed the 2020 edition of the Asia cup successively for 2 years, as initially it was postponed to June 2021 and allotted to Sri Lanka(shifted from Pakistan) and now again postponed to 2023 as there is already an Asia Cup in 2022 which will be hosted by Pakistan. There has been no Asia Cup since 2018.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

Tennis - 2021 Madrid Open

2021 Madrid Open was a clay-court event held from 30th April 2021 – 9th May 2021.
Place - Manzanares Park Tennis Center (also known as Manolo Santana Stadium), Madrid, Spain.

Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Matteo Berrettini (Italy)
Women's Singles	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
Men's Doubles	Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) & Marcel Granollers (Spain)	Nikola Mektic & Mate Pavic (Croatian Pair)
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejcikova & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republican Pair)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) & Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

Kazakhstan Tennis player Roman Khassanov given 10-year ban

The International Tennis Integrity Agency announced that Roman Khassanov a tennis player who represented Kazakhstan in the Davis Cup has been banned for 10 years after admitting to a string of corruption charges.

Table Tennis – ITTF partners with Stupa Sports Analytics to provide performance analytics

Tie up b/w - International Table Tennis Federation (**ITTF**) & Stupa Sports Analytics, an Indian company.
Purpose - To provide Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled real-time match and practice solutions to leading players in all its 226 member associations.

Tennis – 2021 Italian Open

2021 Italian Open also known as Rome Masters or Internazionali BNL d'Italia) is a Clay court Tournament and also an ATP Tour Masters 1000 event & a WTA 1000 event from May 8-16, 2021.
Edition -78th **, Held at** - Foro Italico venue in Rome, Italy.

Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

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Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
Men's Doubles	Nikola Mektic & Mate Pavic (Croatian Pair)	Rajeev Ram (US) & Joe Salisbury (UK)
Women's Doubles	Sharon Fichman (Canada) & Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)	Kristina Mladenovic (France) & Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic)

Barbora Strycova, former World No.1 doubles player retires from Tennis

Barbora Strycova, a 35-year-old tennis player from Czech Republic announced retirement from Tennis. **Her records** -Hold 2 WTA singles titles and 31 doubles titles, and bronze Medalist in doubles in the 2016 Rio Olympics. She also was ranked WTA World No.1 in Doubles and World No. 16 in Singles in her sports journey.

Tennis: 2021 Geneva Open & 2021 ATP Lyon Open

18th Edition of 2021 Geneva Open, a Men's Clay Court tournament and is part of the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour 250 series held at Tennis Club de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland.

- ✓ **Singles Title :-** Casper Ruud (Norway) defeated Denis Shapovalov (Canada) to win the Singles.
- ✓ **Doubles Title** :- Australian Pair of John Peers and Michael Venus win the Doubles.

2021 ATP Lyon Open (4th Edition), a Men's Clay Court tournament held at Vélodrome Georges Preveral, Lyon, France.

- ✓ **Singles Title:-** Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece) defeated Cameron Norrie (Britain) to win the Singles.
- ✓ **Doubles Title:-** Hugo Nys (Monaco) & Tim Putz (Germany) won the doubles.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

Football- Manchester City won the 2020-21 League Cup title

Manchester City clinched a fourth consecutive **2020-21 League Cup or EFL Cup or Carabao Cup Football title** after beating Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley Stadium, England.

- ❖ It has now matched Liverpool's record of eight League Cup titles.

Football - Manchester City Won Premier League 2020-21

Manchester City won the 2020-21 Premier League by defeating Manchester United. 2020-21 Premier League is the 29th edition of Premier League, the top English professional league for association football clubs.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup to be Held in India in October 11-30, 2022

On the 71st Federation Internationale de Football Association(FIFA) Congress, the FIFA Council approved key dates for the international match calendars. In which it also announced the dates of the 2022 U-17 Women's world Cup in India to be held from October 11 to 30 in 2022. This will be the 2nd FIFA tournament hosted by India, after the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017.

Germany Footballer Sami Khedira announced retirement

Germany's midfielder 2014 FIFA World Cup-winner Sami Khedira announced retirement, He began his football career at VfB Stuttgart and won the Bundesliga title in 2007. He has also won the La Liga and UEFA Champions League with Real Madrid, and five Serie A titles with Juventus. Khedira played 77 games for Germany scoring seven goals and helped them win the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

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Football : Barcelona Won its 1st Women's Champions League Title

Barcelona beat Chelsea and won the **UEFA (Union of European Football Associations)** Women's Champions League 2020/21 by scoring 4-0. It was Barcelona's first Champions League title. Barcelona also became the first team from Spain to win Europe's top club competition.

BOXING, WRESTLING & WEIGHTLIFTING

Boxer Amit Panghal Won Bronze Medal at 2021 St. Petersburg Governor's Cup

Indian Boxer, **Amit Panghal** won the **Bronze medal** in the 52Kg Category at the **2021 St Petersburg Governor's Cup** in St. Petersburg, Russia**.**

- He lost against Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan.
- Amit Panghal was the only Indian medallist at the Governor's Cup.

2021 ASBC Asian Elite Men & Women Boxing Championships Relocated to Dubai

Boxing Federation of India **(BFI)**, in consultation with the Asian Boxing Confederation **(ASBC)** decided to conduct the **2021 Asian Elite Men and Women Boxing Championships** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from Delhi.

- The tournament was scheduled to be held at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.
- Under the championship, the Indian women's team will be led by the MC Mary Kom (51kg) and the men's team is not yet announced.

2021 Men's World Boxing Championships schedule has been revealed

International Boxing Association **(AIBA)** headquartered at Lausanne in Switzerland ,has announced that the 2021 AIBA Men's World Boxing Championships is scheduled to be held from October 26 to November 6,2021.

Host country - Belgrade, Serbia

The previous edition of Championships was hosted by Ekaterinburg, Russia in 2019.

Arjan Singh Bhullar become first Indian-origin fighter to win MMA world champion

Indo-Canadian Mixed Martial Artist (MMA) Arjan Singh Bhullar defeated Brandon Vera to become the heavyweight world champion at the Singapore-based One Championship and became the first Indian-origin fighter to win an MMA world champion title.

Indian rowers Arjun Lal and Arvind Singh qualifies for Tokyo Olympics 2020

Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 in men's lightweight double sculls event after finishing second in the final race of the Asia/Oceania Continental Qualifying Regatta in Tokyo, Japan and will be the only Indian rowers in Tokyo Olympics.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

Srihari Nataraj creates national record in 50m backstroke swimming

Indian swimmer Srihari Nataraj won his second Gold in 50m backstroke swimming and made a national record in Uzbekistan Open Championship.

- This was Srihari's third national record. He had made a new record twice in 100m backstroke.

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- Indian swimmers got a total of 29 medals, which comprise 18 Gold, seven Silver and two Bronze in the event.

Lewis Hamilton wins F1 Portugese GP 2021; Jack Miller wins 2021 Spanish Grand Prix of MotoGP

- **Mercedes' driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the Portuguese Grand Prix 2021** of Formula One (F1) held at Algarve International Circuit in Portimao, Portugal. It is Hamilton's 97th Career Victory.
- **Australia's Jack Miller (Ducati) won the 2021 Spanish GP** held at Circuito de Jerez, Andalusia, Spain. Italy's Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati) finished 2nd, followed by Italy's Franco Morbidelli (Yamaha).

Indian Gymnast Pranati Nayak Gets Asian quota, to compete at 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Pranati Nayak, Indian Gymnast from West Bengal, is set to compete at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She has won the bronze in vault at the Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship 2019. She has qualified through the Asian quota. She is the 2nd reserve after Elpitiya Badalge Dona Milka Geh of Sri Lanka for the Asian quota.

Mark Selby Won the 2021 World Snooker Championship

Mark Selby, an English professional Snooker Player won the 2021 World Snooker Championship He defeated Shaun Murphy(English professional snooker player).
Held at - Sheffield, England.
Organized by - World Snooker Tour, a subsidiary of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA).

Formula One: Lewis Hamilton wins Spanish Grand Prix 2021

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (Britain) won the Spanish Grand Prix 2021 for the 6th time (5th consecutive victory). The Spanish GP was held at Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya in Montmela, Spain. Lewis Hamilton also became the 1st Formula One driver to seal 100 pole positions (1st position in the starting grid when the race is starting).

New Zealand hosts the Women's Rugby on October 2022

World Rugby announced that, New Zealand is set to host the Women's Rugby Tournament, Rugby World Cup from 8th October 2022 to 12th November 2022. The Tournament was originally to be held in 2021, but was officially postponed by a year in March 2021 due to COVID-19.

AICF Launched an initiative Against COVID-19

All India Chess Federation (AICF) launched an initiative to support the chess community affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Initiative name – 'Checkmate Covid Initiative'
The initiative was launched at the virtual event in the presence of Arkady Dvorkovich, president of FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs – International Chess Federation), Viswanathan Anand, 5 time world Champion, World Rapid Chess Champion Koneru Humpy, Sanjay Kapoor, president of AICF and Bharat Singh Chauhan, Secretary of AICF.

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English Golfer Richard Bland Won Betfred British Masters 2021; Indian Golfer Shubhankar Sharma tied 34th

English professional golfer Richard Bland won the Betfred British Masters 2021 hosted by Danny Willett. He won his first European Tour victory defeating Guido Migliozzi of Italy.Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma ended tied 34th, he was the only Indian to make the cut among the 4 participants(Ajeetesh Sandhu, SSP Chawrasia and Gaganjeet Bhullar).

Max Verstappen wins F1 Monaco GP; Jack Miller wins French MotoGP

- ✓ **Formula One – Monaco GP 2021** : **Red Bull Racing Honda's Max Verstappen** from Netherlands won the 2021 F1 Monaco Grand Prix held at Circuit de Monaco, Monte Carlo. Organised by Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).
- ✓ **MotoGP – 2021 French MotoGP - Ducati's Jack Miller** from Australia won the 2021 French MotoGP (2021 SHARK Helmets Grand Prix de) held at the Le Mans Bugatti Grand Prix race circuit, Le Mans, France. Organized by Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM).

Indian women's pair Qualify For Tokyo Paralympics 2021

Palak Kohli and Parul Parmar have qualified for the Tokyo Paralympics 2021 and these two Indian women's pair became the first Indian para shuttlers to qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics.

- ✓ Palak Kohli is ranked no.11 in the world and she is becoming the youngest para-badminton player in the world to qualify for Tokyo 2021 Paralympics.

Phil Mickelson won 2021 PGA Championship

A 50-year old **World Golf Hall of Fame member, American Golfer Phil Mickelson** won the 2021 PGA Championship, who surpassed Julius Boros(48) to become the oldest major championship winner in the history of golf after capturing his sixth major.This was the 45 titles since 1991 and became the first player in PGA Tour history to win tournaments 30 years apart.

India's Tejaswin Shankar Wins Consecutive High Jump Titles In USA

India's Tejaswin Shankar won back-to-back men's high jump titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA. The Delhi-based national record in men's high jump is studying business administration at Kansas State University, USA.

- ✓ He cleared the bar at 2.28m to win high jump gold, but his efforts fell short of the Tokyo Olympic Games qualification standard of 2.33m. Shankar had also won the men's high jump title in the 2019 edition.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

BOOK NAME	AUTHOR	KEY NOTES
Climate Change Explained – For One And All	climate activist-author, Aakash Ranison	**Subject** - focused on topics like climate change and its effect on the lives of individuals. The book is available on https://climateaction.aakashranison.com/.
The Bench	Meghan Markle	**Author -** Meghan Markle, The Duchess of Sussex. She is set to release her debut book. **Published by** - Random House Children's Books. **Subject** - the bond between a father and son through the mother's perspective.

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		The illustrations of the book are done by award-winning artist Christian Robinson.
Another Dozen Stories	Satyajit Ray	**English Translator** - Indrani Majumdar. **Published by** - Penguin India **Released on** - 2nd May 2021, the 100th Birth anniversary of Satyajit Ray, one of India's greatest filmmakers. The foreword of the book was written by veteran actress Sharmila Tagore.
Bengal 2021-An Election Diary	Deep Halder	**Published by** - Harper Collins India **Subject** - Speaks about the electrifying election that took place in West Bengal, amid the times of Covid-19.
Elephant	Paul Pickering	**Author** - Paul Pickering ,a British Novelist **Published by** - Salt Publishing **Subject** - This book is about the love story between Natasha and the man in Paris and it explores the interface between fact and fiction. According to the author, his book 'Elephant' is an affirmation of 'I am my voice'.
Life in the Clock Tower Valley	Shakoor Rather	**Author** - Shakoor Rather, Delhi-based Kashmiri journalist **Published by** - Speaking Tiger Books **Subject -** The novel travels between the past, present and future of Kashmir. It provides an insider's view of everyday life and emotions in Kashmir valley through various love stories.
1971: The Beginning of India's Cricketing Greatness	Boria Majumdar and Gautam Bhattacharya	**Published by** – HarperCollins **Subject -** This Book is a thrilling account of the 1971 twin tours.i.e. India tour to England and India tour to West Indies.
All Time Favourites for children	Ruskin Bond	**Author** - Ruskin Bond, an Indian author of British descent. **Published by** - Puffin, children's imprint of Penguin Random House. **Subject** - It is a collection of short stories which will feature some of his most celebrated characters and stories like 'Rusty's Adventures', 'Grandfather's Stories' as well as with new stories. This book is set to be released on Ruskin bond's 87th birthday on May 19, 2021. Ruskin Bond was awarded the Padma Shri in 1999 and the Padma

		Bhushan in 2014 for his contribution to the field of literature.
Elephant In The Womb	Kalki Koechlin	**Author** - Kalki Koechlin, an Indian actress **Published by** - Penguin Random House India(PRHI) **Subject** - The book focuses on the physiological discomfort and manic expectations during motherhood. This book is debut novel of the kalki and illustrations of the book were done by Valeriya Polyanychko.
Klara and the Sun Novel	Kazuo Ishiguro	**Author** - Kazuo Ishiguro , a noble prize winner **Published by** - Penguin Random house **Subject -** Klara and the Sun is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?
Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance	Preet Mohan Singh Malik	**Published by** - HarperCollins India **Subject** - The book's objective is to clarify the strategic issues behind India's decision to accept Sikkim's demand to be merged with India.The book focuses on the history of Sikkim along with the story of how it merged with India in 1975.
Buddha in Gandhara	Sunita Dwivedi	**Published by** - Rupa Publications **Subject -** It is a Travelogue about the journey through the cities that once dotted the highroad connecting India with Central Asia and China. Buddha in Gandhara is the Story of ancient Buddhist cities of Gandhara,a region that extended from north-western Pakistan to eastern and north-eastern Afghanistan.
The Spiritual CEO	S Prakash	**Published by -** Westland Publication **Subject -**This book deals with the roadmap for how to build a better business, live a better life and all through the simple practice of "Korporate Karma".
Sach Kahun Toh	Neena Gupta	**Author** - Neena Gupta, Indian actress and television director **Published by** - Penguin Random House India **Subject :-** In the book, she shares her life story, details the life's many choices, big milestones in her life, and her battles against stereotypes, then and now.She won the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress in Woh Chokri (1994).
7 Lessons from Everest – Expedition Learnings from Life and Business	Aditya Gupta	**Author** - Aditya Gupta , Delhi-based entrepreneur and mountaineer

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		Subject :- It is a coffee-table book, with 350 stunning images, which narrates the author's experience of scaling Mt Everest at the age of 50 in 2019. The book aims to raise one crore rupees (~USD 137500) for Covid-19 relief from its sales.
Stargazing: The Players In My Life	Ravi Shastri	**Author** - Ravi Shastri , Cricket player, commentator along with his co-author **Ayaz Memon,** sports journalist **Published by -** Harper Collins India **Subject -** The Book is about some 60 extraordinary talents that Ravi Shastri has met from across the world who have inspired him.
India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present	Shivshankar Menon	**Author** - Shivshankar Menon, Indian diplomat **Published by -** Brookings Institution **Subject :-** The book talks about the changes in Independent India's foreign policy choices throughout its history and maps its present-day challenges.
Savarkar: A contested Legacy (1924-1966)	Vikram Sampath	**Author** - Vikram Sampath**,** Bangalore based Historian **Published by -** Penguin Random House India **Subject :-** The 2nd & concluding volume of the life and works of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar(Veera Savarkar in marathi) who was an Indian independence activist and politician who formulated the Hindu nationalist philosophy of Hindutva. ✓ The book covers the life story of Veer Savarkar, one of the most contentious and iconoclastic political thinkers from 1924 to his death in 1966.

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
Soli Sorabjee	Former Attorney General	Maharashtra	Veteran lawyer and Padma Vibhushan Awardee, former attorney general Soli Sorabjee passed away in Delhi. **Birth detail -** 9th March 1930 in Mumbai,Maharashtra. **Award** - He was honoured with Padma Vibhushan award in 2002 for his defence of freedom of speech and the protection of human rights.
Manas Bihari Verma	Aeronautical scientist	Bihar	Padma Shri awardee, Aeronautical scientist Manas Bihari Verma, 77 died in Darbhanga district of Bihar.

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			Birth detail - 29th July 1943 in Darbhanga, Bihar **Awards** - He won Padma Shri Award in 2018 for his exemplary contributions in the field of aeronautical engineering.
Jagmohan Malhotra	Former Union Minister, Padma Awardee and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) governor	Punjab	Former Union Minister, Padma Awardee and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) governor Jagmohan Malhotra passed away at the age of 93. He had also served as the lieutenant governor of Delhi and governor of Goa, Daman & Diu. **Birth detail** - 25th January 1927 in Punjab (British India). **Awards** - Padma Shri in 1971, Padma Bhushan in 1977 and Padma Vibhushan in 2016 for his contributions in different spheres as a public servant.
Shravan Rathod	Music composer	Maharashtra	Famous Music composer Shravan Rathod, of Nadeem-Shravan duo passed away at the age of 66 -in Mumbai,Maharashtra. **Birth detail** - 13 November 1954, Mumbai, Maharashtra. **Well known projects** - Nadeem Shravan was well known for their composition in Aashiqui (1990). Other works are Saajan, Sadak ,Phool Aur Kaante,Deewana, Hum Hain Rahi Pyar Ke, Raja, Agni Sakshi, Jeet, Pardes and Raja Hindustani.
Jagdish Khattar	MD of Maruti Suzuki	Dera Ismail Khan (Currently in Pakistan), British India	Jagdish Khattar,79, the former MD of Maruti Suzuki India (Then known as Maruti Udyog Limited), passed away. **Birth detail** - 18 December 1942 in Dera Ismail Khan (Currently in Pakistan), British India. With a vision of developing a multi-brand automobile sales and service network, he launched a venture named Carnation Auto.

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Pandit Devabrata (Debu) Chaudhuri	Padma Awardee	Mymensingh (now in Bangladesh)	Sitar Maestro Pandit Devabrata (Debu) Chaudhuri passed away at the age of 85 in Delhi. **Birth detail** – 30 May 1935 in Mymensingh (now in Bangladesh). **Awards** – Padma Bhushan in 1992 for his contribution to arts.Aslo received Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards.
KV Anand	Tamil Director	Madras State	Tamil Director and National film Award winning Cinematographer KV Anand (Karimanal Venkatesan Anand) passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. **Birth detail** - 30th October 1966 in Madras, Madras State (present Tamil Nadu). ❖ In 1994, He debuted as the cinematographer for the Malayalam film "Thenmavin Kombath" and won the National Film Award for Best Cinematography. ❖ He was the founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers (ISC).
Gulam Mohammad Khan	Horse Rider	-	❖ **1982 Asian Games gold medallist** rider, Colonel Gulam Mohammad Khan died on May 01, 2021, in Pune, Maharashtra. Along with his team, he won the gold medal in Eventing at the 1982(9th) Asian Games in New Delhi. ❖ He was honoured with an Arjuna Award in 1984.
Amit Mistry	Actor	-	Veteran Gujarati and Hindi Film Actor Amit Mistry passed Away at the age of 47 after suffering a cardiac arrest. ❖ Actor Amit Mistry worked in TV shows like Tenali Rama, Madam Sir and played roles in many

			films like Yamla Pagla Deewana, Shor in the City. ❖ He was also actively involved in the theatre circuit especially in Gujarati shows. He had also acted in Gujarati films.
Farid Sabri	Singer	-	Qawwali singer Farid Sabri, of the Sabri Brothers duo, passed away at the age of 58 in Jaipur. His father was Saeed Sabri and his brother was Ameen Sabri. ❖ The trio have delivered some of the best qawwalis in Hindi films. They are known for the evergreen numbers 'Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin Der Na Ho Jaye' and 'Ek Mulakat Zaruri Hai Sanam'.
Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom	India's longest serving Bishop	Travancore, British India	Padma Bhushan Reverend(Rev) Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan, a well-known religious leader and India's longest serving Bishop passed away at the age of 103 in Pathanamthitta, Kerala. **Birth detail** - 27th April 1918 in Travancore, British India. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2018.
Matang Sinh	Former Union Minister and Congress leader	Assam	Former Union Minister and Congress leader, Matang Sinh passed away in New Delhi. **Birth Detail** - 22nd August 1962 in Tinsukia, Assam. ❖ He launched the first satellite news channel of Assam and the Northeast region, "Northeast Television" (popularly known as NETV) in 2003. He was well known in Assam as a TV tycoon.
Vanraj Bhatia	Famous music composer and Padma Shri awardee		Famous music composer and Padma Shri awardee, Vanraj Bhatia passed away in Mumbai. He is one

		-	of the leading composers of Western classical music in India. Awards: i.National Film Award for Best Music Direction (for Tamas) – 1988 ii.Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Creative and Experimental Music - 1989 iii.He won Padma Shri award in 2012 for his contribution towards Indian Cinema.
Chaudhary Ajit Singh	Former Union Minister	Uttar Pradesh	Former Union Minister and the Chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), Chaudhary Ajit Singh passed away at the age of 82 in Gurgaon, Haryana. **Birth Detail** - 12th February 1939 in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. ❖ He has served as the Union Food Minister under the government led by Narasimha Rao. ❖ He has also served as the Minister of Agriculture from 2001 to 2003 and in 2011 he served as the Minister of Civil Aviation.
Gutha Muniratnam	Padma Shri awardee	Andhra Pradesh	Renowned Social Activist Padma Shri awardee Gutha Muniratnam passed away in Chennai. **Birth detail** - 6th January 1936 in Tiruvallur,Andhra Pradesh. Gutha Muniratnam was honored by the Government of India, in 2012, with the fourth highest Indian civilian award of Padma Shri for his contribution towards social service.
Ravinder Pal Singh	Hockey player	Uttar Pradesh	**Former India hockey player Ravinder Pal Singh** passed away in Lucknow due to COVID-19. **Birth Detail** - 6th Sept. 1960 in Sitapur,Uttar Pradesh. Ravinder Pal Singh was the member of the Indian Hockey team that won the gold medal in 1980 Olympics held in

			Moscow,Russia.He had also worked in State Bank of India.
Maharaj Krishan Kaushik	Hockey player and coach	-	**Former India hockey player and coach Maharaj Krishan Kaushik(M K Kaushik)** passed away in New Delhi. He was born on 2nd May 1955.He was the member of the Indian Hockey team that won the Gold medal in 1980 Olympics held in Moscow,Russia. He was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1998 for his role as a sportsman and the Dronacharya award in 2002 for his contribution as a coach.
Raghunath Mohapatra	Rajya Sabha member and Padma Awardee	Odisha	Rajya Sabha member and **Padma Awardee Raghunath Mohapatra** passed away in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha. **Birth detail** - 24th March 1943 in Puri, Odisha **Awards** - National award for Sculpture in 1964 ,Padma Vibhushan in 2013, Padma Bhushan award in 2001 and Padma Shri award in 1976 for his contribution to the field of stone sculpture.
Fortunato Franco	Former India international footballer	Goa	Former **India international footballer, Fortunato Franco**, passed away in Goa. **Birth detail** -2nd May 1937 in Goa. He was a part of the 1962 Asian Games gold medal-winning football team in Jakarta.
Venugopal Chandrasekhar	Table Tennis(TT) player	Tamil Nadu	Arjuna Awardee Venugopal Chandrasekhar, former Indian Table Tennis(TT) player passed away in Chennai. He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.He was honored with the Arjuna Award in 1982. His Autobiography titled "My fightback from Death's Door" was published in 2006.
Chandro Tomar	Sharpshooter	-	The 89-year-old sharpshooter Chandro Tomar passed away in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Chandro Tomar popularly known as "Shooter Dadi", started her shooting career in her 60's and was acclaimed as the **World's Oldest Women Sharp Shooter**. The 2019

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			movie "Saand Ki Aankh" was based on the biography of Chandro Tomar and Prakahi Tomar (2nd oldest woman shooter in the world).
KR Gouri Amma	First Revenue Minister of Kerala	Kerala	First Revenue Minister of Kerala, Kalathilparambil Raman(KR) Gouri Amma,101, popularly known as the architect of land reforms in Kerala passed away in Thiruvananthapuram,Kerala. **Birth Detail** - July 14, 1919 in Alappuzha district,Kerala KR Gouri Amma is fondly known as the Iron Lady and Stormy Petrel of Kerala politics.
Homen Borgohain	Assamese writer	Assam	Assamese writer and Veteran journalist Homen Borgohain has passed away at the age of 88 in Guwahati, Assam. **Birth details**- December 7, 1932 in Lakhimpur district,Assam. He was conferred with Sahitya Akademi Award in 1978 for Assamese language for his novel 'Pita Putra', but he returned his award in 2015 in protest against intolerance being created in the Indian society.
Indu Jain	Chairperson of Times Group	Faizabad, United Provinces, British India (present Uttar Pradesh)	Padma Bhushan Indu Jain, Chairperson of Times Group, passed away at the age of 84 in Delhi. She has been described as a philanthropist, a proponent of Women's right and a patron of the arts. **Birth detail** - 8th September 1936 in Faizabad, United Provinces, British India (present Uttar Pradesh).
Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan	Renowned Mathematician	Thandarai, Madras Presidency, British India	Renowned Mathematician Padma Bhushan Prof. Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan(MS Narasimhan) passed away at the age of 88. He is well known, along with C. S. Seshadri, for the Narasimhan–Seshadri theorem. **Birth Detail of . M S Narasimhan** - born on 7th June 1932 in Thandarai, Madras Presidency, British India (now Tamil Nadu).

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			Awards -Padma Bhushan(Science and Engineering) in 1990 and only Indian who received the King Faisal International Prize in Science.
Raghunandan Lal Bhatia	Senior Congress leader and former Governor of Kerala, Bihar	Punjab	Senior Congress leader and former Governor of Kerala, Bihar, Raghunandan Lal Bhatia(R L Bhatia) passed away in Amritsar,Punjab. **Birth Detail** - 3rd July 1921 in Amritsar,Punjab.
Dr.Krishan Kumar Aggarwal	Former National President of the Indian Medical Association	New Delhi	Former National President of the Indian Medical Association(IMA) Dr.Krishan Kumar Aggarwal(KK Aggarwal) has passed away in New Delhi. **Birth detail** – 5th September 1958 in New Delhi. Government of India honoured Dr.KK Aggarwal with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine.
Chaman Lal Gupta	veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader	J&K	Chaman Lal Gupta, a veteran Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) leader and former Union Minister passed away at his residence in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K). **Birth detail** - 13th April 1934 in Kaleeth, Jammu, J&K He has authored 3 Hindi books titled "Sansad mein Jammu Kashmir", "Sansad mein dedh varsh" and "Mere Prayaas".
Ki Rajanarayanan	Tamil writer	TamilNadu	Tamil writer, novelist Rayangala Shri Krishna Raja Narayana Perumal Ramanujam Naicker fondly known as Ki Rajanarayanan passed away at the age of 97 in Pudhucherry. **Birth detail** - 16 September 1923 in Kovilpatti, TamilNadu Ki. Rajanarayanan was honored with Sahitya Academy award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopalla Purathu Makkal'. He is famously called by his Tamil initials as KiRa, he was known as the pioneer of 'Karisal Literature'.

Jagannath Pahadia	Veteran Congress leader	Rajasthan	Veteran Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister(CM)Jagannath Pahadia passed away at the age of 89 in Jaipur,Rajasthan. **Birth detail** - 5th January 1932 in Bhusawar, Rajasthan State, British India. He was the first Dalit chief minister of the Rajasthan.He was also a former Governor of Haryana and Bihar.
Rajeev Shankarrao Satav	Veteran Congress leader and Rajya Sabha Member	Maharashtra	Veteran Congress leader and Rajya Sabha Member, Rajeev Shankarrao Satav passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. **Birth detail** - 21 September 1974 in Pune, Maharashtra. Currently he served as the member of the Parliament of Rajya Sabha. He was in the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence & Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
Om Prakash Bhardwaj	India's first Dronacharya awardee coach in boxing	-	Passed away after battling prolonged illness and age-related ailments in New Delhi. In 1985, O P Bhardwaj was awarded the Dronacharya Award, India's highest award in the field of coaching of sports and athletics.
Sunderlal Bahuguna	Well-known environmentalist Padma Vibhushan Awardee	Uttarakhand	Well-known environmentalist,Gandhian and Padma Vibhushan Awardee Sunderlal Bahuguna passed away in Rishikesh,Uttarakhand. He created the Chipko movement 's slogan "Ecology is the permanent economy." **Birth detail** – 9th January 1927 in Maroda,Uttarakhand. **Awards :**-Padma Vibhushan by the government of India for his contribution to environment conservation.In 1981 he was awarded Padma Shri by the government of India, but he refused it. He was also awarded the Right Livelihood Award in 1987 for Chipko Movement.

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Srikumar Banerjee	Indian metallurgical engineer and former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)	-	Passed away in Mumbai,Maharashtra. **Awards :-** ✓ Padma Shri in 2005 for his service in the field of science. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 1989.
Sakti Mazumdar	Former Indian Olympian Boxer	West Bengal	Passed Away in West Bengal. **Birth detail**:- 13th November 1931 in Kolkata, West Bengal. Sakti Mazumdar had represented India in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics in the men's flyweight event. He won national champion in the flyweight category for 2 times. Mazumdar had a record of KO wins.
Babagouda Patil	Former union minister and eminent farmer leader	Karnataka	Passed away in Karnataka. **Birth Detail** - 6th January 1945 in Belagavi district, Karnataka. Babagouda Patil served as Minister of State for Rural Development (independent charge) and also as Union Minister in Atal Behari Vajpayee's cabinet.
Colonel Panjab Singh	Vir Chakra awardee	-	Vir Chakra awardee and a decorated veteran of the 1971 war , Colonel Panjab Singh passed away at the Command Hospital in Chandimandir, in Haryana.He was born on February 15, 1942. He was popularly known as 'Hero of Poonch' for his remarkable contribution during 'Operation Cactus Lilly' in 1971 Indo-Pak war.
Raam Laxman	Veteran music composer	-	Veteran music composer of Laxman a.ka. Vijay Patil of duo Raam Laxman, passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest in Nagpur,Maharashtra.He was known for his work in films like Hum Aapke Hain Koun and Maine Pyaar Kiya. Vijay Patil and his friend Surinder formed the duo Raam-Laxman,Patil was Laxman and Surinder was Raam and composed for the film together.
H S Doreswamy	Freedom fighter	Karnataka	Freedom fighter, Journalist, Social worker Centenarian H S Doreswamy passed away at the age of 104. **Birth Delhi -** April 10, 1918, in Harohalli near Bangalore, Karnataka.
Dr. Tarannum Riyaz	The former Urdu newsreader		The former Urdu newsreader of **All India Radio(AIR)** and a renowned poet ,Dr. Tarannum Riyaz passed away

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		-	in New Delhi. She was the recipient of the SAARC Literature Award in 2014. She was also the secretary of Poetry Club India and convener for the Urdu language with International Centre for Peace Studies New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL

PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
Michael Collins	American astronaut	Rome, Italy	American astronaut, Apollo 11 pilot Michael Collins passed away at 90. **Birth detail** - 31st October 1930 in Rome, Italy. ❖ Michael Collins flew the Apollo 11 command module Columbia around the Moon in 1969 along with his crewmates, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, who made the first crewed landing on the Moon surface. He is also known as the 'forgotten' astronaut of Apollo 11.
Olympia Dukakis	Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' actress	USA	Oscar-winning 'Moonstruck' actress Olympia Dukakis passed away at the age of 89 in New York. **Birth detail** - 20th June 1931 in Massachusetts,USA. ❖ She was an American actress, director, producer, teacher and activist. ❖ She won an Oscar award in 1987 and won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for her performance in Moonstruck.
Yuan Longping	Chinese agricultural scientist	China	Yuan Longping , Chinese agricultural scientist, also known as the "father of hybrid rice"passed away. His discovery of Nan-you No. 2,transformed China into a grain surplus country for the first time by increasing China's rice production. **Birth Detail** - September 7, 1930 in Beijing, Republic of China. **Awards :-** World Food Prize in 2004, Gold Medal Award for the Outstanding Inventor of the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization
Poul Schlueter	Former Denmark prime minister	Denmark	Former Denmark prime minister and was also longest-serving Danish prime minister **Poul**

			Schlueter, who negotiated exemptions for his country to a key European Union(EU) treaty has passed away. **Birth detail** – 3rd April 1929 in Tonder, Denmark.

IMPORTANT DAYS

OBSERVED DATE / WEEK	DAYS	KEY NOTES
April 30, 2021	International Jazz Day	Annually observed across the globe on 30th April **Celebrated by** - The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also with its official partners the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz. **2021** Marks 10th anniversary of International Jazz Day. **Aim of the day** - to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role in uniting people across the globe.
April 30, 2021	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	Annually observed across India – April 30th **Aim of the day** - to promote affordable medical facilities in the remote parts of India and aims to promote health and wellness and provide the benefits of insurance to the poor.
May 2, 2021	World Tuna Day	Annually observed across the globe on 2nd May. **Aim** - To create awareness about the importance of Tuna and to promote sustainable fishing practices. The first World Tuna Day was observed on 2nd May 2017.
May 2, 2021	World Laughter Day	Celebrated every year on the first Sunday of May and this year it falls on 2nd May. **Aim -** to raise awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. **" HAPPY-DEMIC"** was the first World Laughter Day gathering outside India. The first world laughter day was celebrated on 10th May 1998 in

		Mumbai,India organised by Dr.Madan Kataria.
April 29, 2021	International Dance Day	Annually celebrated across the world on 29thApril, the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, the creator of modern ballet. **Founded by** – Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) in 1982. **Purpose** - to celebrate dance and its universality which unites the people across different political, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
May 1, 2021	International Labour Day	Annually observed across the globe on May 1st. **Aim** - To recognize the achievements of the workers and to create awareness about the exploitation of workers. ❖ It is also known as International Workers Day or May Day, Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas (International Labour Day) or "Kamgar Din". The day is observed in many countries like India, Cuba and China.
May 3, 2021	World Press Freedom Day	Annually observed across the globe on 3rd May. **Aim -** To recognize the freedom of the press and highlights the need for the government and people to respect their commitment to press freedom. **The theme of 2021**- "Information as a Public Good". 3rd May marks the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek.
May 4, 2021	World Asthma Day	Annually observed on the first Tuesday of May. This year it falls on May 4. **Theme for the year 2021:** "Uncovering Asthma Misconceptions". The day is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) in collaboration with health care groups and

		asthma educators, to spread awareness and care around the world.
May 5, 2021	International Day of the Midwife	Annually celebrated across the globe on 5th May. **Theme of the IDM 2021** - "Follow the data: Invest in Midwives" **Aim** - to recognise and celebrate the work of midwives across the world. The midwives are the healthcare professionals who provide support and care for the women during pregnancy, labour and birth.
April 24-30, 2021	World Immunization Week	Former England Footballer, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Goodwill Ambassador and founder of the 7 Fund for UNICEF, David Beckham released a video ahead of World Immunization Week 2021 (April 24th-30th) for creating awareness among the parents around the world to vaccinate their children against deadly diseases.
May 4, 2021	International Firefighters Day	Annually observed across the globe on 4th May. **Aim** - To recognize and honor the contribution and sacrifices of the Firefighters to ensure the safety of their community and environment. The day was proposed by the Australian firefighter JJ Edmondson on 4th January 1999 to honour and remember the deaths of 5 firefighters who died in the line of duty in the 1998 Wildfire at Linton, Victoria, Australia.
May 5, 2021	World Hand Hygiene Day	Annually observed across the globe on 5th May. Organised by - World Health Organisation(WHO). **Aim** - To create awareness about the importance of hand hygiene towards health care. The 2021 theme of the campaign is "Achieving hand hygiene at the point of care".

		The 2021 slogan of the campaign is "Seconds save lives – clean your hands!"
May 6, 2021	International No Diet Day	Annually observed across the globe on 6th May **Aim** - To celebrate body acceptance and diversity and to promote a healthy lifestyle and create awareness about various eating disorders and the dangers and futility of dieting. ❖ The Blue Ribbon is the symbol of the International No Diet Day. ❖ The First INDD was celebrated in the United Kingdom in 1992.
May 7, 2021	World Athletics Day	World Athletics Day (WAD) is annually observed across the globe in the month of May. **Aim -** To create awareness about athletics and encourage youngsters to take up sports. ❖ The day is annually observed by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), formerly (1912–2001) International Amateur Athletic Federation. ❖ The IAAF marks the WAD 2021 on 7th May 2021.
May 7, 2021	Border Roads Organisation (BRO) Raising Day	Annually observed across India on 7th May to mark the establishment of the BRO in 1960. ❖ The day also recognises the contribution of all veterans and BRO personnel. ❖ 7th May 2021 marks the celebration of the 61st BRO Raising Day. BRO is the leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.
May 5, 2021	World Portuguese Language Day	Annually observed across the globe on 5th May. **Aim -** To celebrate the Portuguese language and Lusophone cultures. The first World Portuguese Language Day was observed on 5th May 2020. 40th Session of United Nations Educational,

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		Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s General Conference held in 2019 proclaimed the 5th May of every year as the "World Portuguese Language Day".
May 4, 2021	Coal Miners Day	Annually observed across the globe on 4th May. **Aim** - To recognize the hard work of the professionals and the Miners working in the coalfields and also observed to remember and appreciate the workers who have sacrificed their lives and to remember the tragic events experienced by the coal miners.
May 8, 2021	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	Annually observed across the globe on 8th May. **Theme of 2021** is 'Together we are #unstoppable!'. **Aim** - To celebrate and acknowledge the volunteers, members and staff who support the people in need. ❖ The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross(ICRC) who was born on 8th May 1948. The first Red Cross Day was celebrated on 8th May 1948 and it was renamed as the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.
May 8, 2021	World Thalassemia Day	Annually observed across the globe on 8th May. Theme of 2021 :"Addressing Health Inequalities Across the Global Thalassemia Community". Aim - To encourage the patients suffering from Thalassemia, to raise awareness amongst the general public and decision-makers about thalassemia and it was declared an International observance in the loving memory of George Englezos who was the son of son of Thalassemia International Federation's (TIF) president.
May 8, 2021	World Migratory Bird Day	Bi-annually observed across the world on the 2nd Saturday in May and October. WMBD 2021 falls on the 8th May 2021 and also will be observed on 9th October 2021.

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		Theme of May 2021 - Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird! **Aim** - To create awareness about the importance of the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. **Celebrated by** - Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
May 8-9, 2021	Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War	United Nations(UN) annually mark this day on May 8th -9th .The year 2021 marks the 76th anniversary of the end of World War II. **Aim** - to create awareness about the misfortune of war and to pay tribute to all the victims of World War II(WWII).
May 10, 2021	International Day of Argania	United Nations(UN)'s first International Day of Argania was observed on 10th May 2021 will be observed annually across the globe on same day. Aim - To recognize the importance of the Argan tree in achieving the 3 dimensions (Economic, Social and Environmental) of sustainable development at the local level.
May 11, 2021	National Technology Day	Annually observed across India on 11th May. **Theme of 2021** is "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future". **Aim** – This day is to celebrate India's major advancement in the field of Science and Technology and also marks the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear tests, a series of 5 nuclear tests conducted by India.The day also marks the first flight of the first indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3".
May 12, 2021	International Nurses Day	Annually celebrated across the globe on May 12. **Theme of 2021** is Nurses: A Voice to Lead – A vision for future healthcare

		Aim - To highlight the importance of nurses in healthcare and to appreciate their work towards healthcare. The International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.
May 15, 2021	International Day of Families	Annually observed across the globe on 15th May. **Theme of 2021** is "Families and New Technologies". **Aim** - To promote the awareness of the issues related to families and to educate the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.
May 17, 2021	International Day Against Homophobia Transphobia and Biphobia	Annually observed on 17th May. **Theme of 2021** "Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing!". **Aim**- To commemorate the World Health Organization(WHO)'s decision to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1990. The day also aims to celebrate sexual and gender diversity and campaign against the violence and discrimination experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people across the globe.
May 17, 2021	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Annually observed across the globe on 17th May. **The theme of 2021** : "Accelerating digital transformation in challenging times". **Aim** – To raise awareness of the possibilities about the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.
May 17-23, 2021	Global Road Safety Week	Global Road Safety Week (**UNGRSW**) is a biennial global road safety campaign and in this year 2021 marks the 6th UNGRSW which observed from 17th to 23rd May 2021. **Hosted by** - World Health Organization(WHO). **Aim** - To create awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths. **Theme of 2021** is "Streets for Life #Love30", which calls for 30 km/h default speed limits where people and vehicles mix.
May 17, 2021	World Hypertension day	Annually observed across the globe on 17th May. **Theme for 2021:** 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer'.

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		Aim - To raise awareness about the symptoms of hypertension to prevent and control it. The focus of 2021: Combatting low awareness rates worldwide, especially in low to middle-income areas, and accurate blood pressure measurement methods.
May 16, 2021	International Day of Living Together in Peace	Annually observed across the globe on May 16. Aim - To support the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.
May 16, 2021	National Dengue Day	Annually observed across the India on May 16. **Aim** - To create awareness about measures on dengue prevention and to control the spread of the vector-borne disease and to reaffirm nationwide efforts to tackle the scourge by using both education and medical intervention.
May 16, 2021	International Day of Light	Annually observed across the globe on 16th May. **Aim** - To celebrate the role of lights in science, culture and art, education and sustainable development, medicine, communications, and energy. The day also marks the anniversary of the first successful operations of the laser in 1960 by Physicist and Engineer Theodore Maiman.
May 16, 2021	World Agri-Tourism Day	Annually observed across the globe on 16th May. 2021 marks the 14th World Agri Tourism Day. **Aim** - To educate the tourists on how agricultural activities are done in farms. **India's Effort** - Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra and Agri Tourism Development Corporation(ATDC) has organized an International conference on Agri Tourism on 15th and 16th May 2021with the theme "Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri"
May 18, 2021	World AIDS Vaccine Day	Annually observed across the globe on 18th May. **Aim** - To create awareness about the requirement of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) vaccines to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.The day aims to educate the general public about AIDS,

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		encourage the researchers and ensure the participation of the general public in the vaccination drive.
May 18, 2021	International Museum Day	International Museum Day 2021 annually observed across the globe on 18th May. **Organised by** - International Council of Museums (ICOM) Advisory Committee. **Aim** - To create awareness on the importance of museums towards the development of society. **Theme of 2021** is "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine".
May 20, 2021	World Bee Day	World Bee Day 2021 annually observed across the globe on 20th May. 2021 marks the observance of the 4th World Bee Day. **Aim -** To create awareness on the importance of bees and other pollinators and the threats faced by them and highlights their contribution towards sustainable development. United Nations has organized a virtual event under the theme "Bee engaged – Build Back Better for Bees".
May 20, 2021	World Metrology Day	Annually observed across the globe on 20th May. **Aim –** To celebrate the International system of Unit. The day marks the annual celebration of the signing of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 in Paris, France by 17 nations. **Theme for 2021** is "Measurement for Health".
May 21, 2021	International Tea Day	Annually observed across the globe on 21st May. **Aim -**To celebrate the cultural heritage, health benefits and economic importance of tea. The observance of the international tea day is led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)of the UN.
May 21, 2021	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	Annually observed on 21st May. **Aim -** To provide opportunity to provide understanding on the values of cultural diversity. The first World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was observed on 21st May 2003.
May 22, 2021	International Day for Biological Diversity	Annually observed across the globe on 22nd May.

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		Aim :- To create awareness of biodiversity issues and provide a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity as a global asset of high value to the future generation.
May 21, 2021	Anti-Terrorism Day	Annually observed across India on 21st May. **Aim**- To prevent the youth from terrorism and to highlight the suffering of the common public and its effect on the national interest. The day also marks the death anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. 21st May 2021 marks the 30th death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.
May 21, 2021	Endangered Species Day	Annually observed across the globe on the third Friday of May to recognize the animals across the globe which are in need of protection and conservation efforts. The Endangered Species Day 2021 was observed on 21st May 2021. The 21st May 2021 marks the celebration of 16th Endangered Species Day.
May 23, 2021	World Turtle Day	Annually observed across the globe on 23rd May.2021 marks 21st World Turtle Day. **Aim** - to support the people to celebrate and protect the tortoise and turtles and their habitats across the globe. **Theme** of World Turtle Day 2021 is "Turtle Rocks!".
May 23, 2021	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Annually observed across the globe on 23rd May. **Aim** - to create awareness and intensify the actions towards ending obstetric fistula which is one of the most serious and tragic childbirth injuries caused by prolonged obstructed labour without access to timely medical treatment. **Theme of 2021** - "Women's rights are human rights! End fistula now!".
May 25, 2021	World Thyroid Day	Annually observed across the globe on 25th May. **Aim -** To create awareness about the importance of Thyroid and educate about the prevention and treatment of Thyroid diseases. **International Thyroid Awareness Week** is annually observed across the globe on the 4th Week of May as declared by the 11th European Congress of Endocrinology in April 2009.It is observed from 25th May 2021 to 31st May 2021.

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May 25, 2021	International Missing Children's Day(IMCD)	Annually observed across the globe on 25th May. **Aim -** To create awareness about the issues of child abduction and educate the parents about the measures to protect and safeguard their children. **'Forget me not' flower** is the official emblem of the International Missing Children's Day.
May 26, 2021	Buddha Purnima or Vesak Day	Annually celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu Month Vaisakha all over the word. 2021 marks the **2583rd birth anniversary of Buddha**. Buddha Purnima ,the birth anniversary of Lord Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. day is also known as **"triple-blessed day"** which marks the birth, enlightenment, and Maha Parnirvana of Buddha. The day is celebrated based on the Asian lunisolar calendar.
May 25-31, 2021	International Week of Solidarity	This day is annually observed across the globe from 25th to 31st May.It aims to take effective measures to protect and guarantee the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, including land.
May 28, 2021	Menstrual Hygiene Day	Annually observed across the globe on 28th May. **Aim** - To educate the importance of Menstrual hygiene and also to promote menstrual health and hygiene for all women and girls. The global coordinator of Menstrual Hygiene Day is WASH United. **Theme of 2021** is "Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health."
May 28, 2021	International Day of Action for Women's Health or International Women's Health Day	Annually observed across the globe on 28th May. **Theme of 2021 campaign** is "Women's Health Matters: Ending the Inequality Pandemic and Ensuring SRHR remains essential!". **Aim** - To create awareness about the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) movement across the globe.
May 28, 2021	World Hunger Day	Annually observed across the globe on 28th May. **Theme of 2021** is "Access Ends Hunger". **Aim -** To create awareness about the 815 million people across the globe who are living in chronic hunger. The day also aims to

		celebrate the sustainable solution to hunger and poverty.
May 29, 2021	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Annually observed across the globe on 29th May. **Aim -** To pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel contribution towards the UN and to honour the peacekeepers who lost their lives in the line of service to the UN since 1948. **Theme of 2021 is "**The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security."
May 29, 2021	World Digestive Health Day (WDHD)	World Digestive Health Day (**WDHD**) is annually observed across the globe on 29th May. **Organised by** - World Gastroenterology Organisation (**WGO**) in partnership with the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (**IFSO**). **Aim –** To focus on the digestive disease and increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease. **Theme of 2021** is "Obesity: An Ongoing Pandemic".
May 29, 2021	International Everest Day	Annually observed across the globe on 29th May. **Aim -**The day observed to mark the first summit of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa of Nepal on 29th May 1953. Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa became the first people to scale the world's highest mountain.

APPS & WEB PORTAL

APP & WEB NAME	LAUNCHED BY	PURPOSE
UDID Portal	-	All State/UT Governments have been notified to issue a certificate for disability through online mode using **Unique Disability ID Portal (UDID Portal)** – (www.swavlambancard.gov.in). **Notified by** - Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)

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		It becomes mandatory from June 1, 2021 and the requirement of a certificate of disability is mandated under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act, 2016).**
Farmizo Khata	SBI Yono and Shivrai Technologies	**Mobile App** - Farmizo Khata, a B2C Farm accounting mobile application. This free-of-cost application helps to make wiser purchase, harvest, and production decisions. The app aims to help farmers across the country to manage their accounts efficiently, thus cutting down on losses.
ID-Art	INTERPOL	**App Name -** 'ID-Art' **Launched by -**International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. **Aim** - To identify the stolen cultural property, reduce smuggling and increase the possibility of recovering stolen works and artefacts.
Dost For Life'	CBSE	**Aim** - To maintain psycho-social wellness during Covid-19.It will be available for students from classes 9 to 12.
CovAid	Central government think tank NITI Aayog	**Purpose** – This portal helps to monitor all the COVID-19 aid received by the Government of India and will enable donors to do end to end tracking till the ultimate beneficiary.
CGTeeka	CHIPS	**Inaugurated by** - Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel **Developed by** - Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHIPS) 'CGTeeka' portal will make the process of registration for the COVID-19 vaccination convenient for every section of society.
e-Sanjeevani	Defence National OPD	**'Defence National OPD'** was launched in e-Sanjeevani Portal. Earlier, 'Defence National OPD' was launched as 'Ex-Defence OPD' on 07 May 2021 in a phased manner in 3 States(Uttar Pradesh ,Rajasthan ,Uttarakhand). It facilitates free online medical consultation to all citizens of India, as well as provides for online prescription of medicines.
NMMS	Narendra Singh Tomar	**Name of the apps** - National Mobile Monitoring Software app (**NMMS**) & Area officer monitoring App **Launched by -** Union Minister for Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar

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		Purpose – To monitoring the MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) worksites. **NMMS App** facilitates taking of real time attendance of workers at MGNREGS worksites along with geotagged photographs and **Area Officer Monitoring App** will help Supervisory officials to record their findings online along with time stamped and geo-coordinate tagged photographs.
MOMA Market Mobile	N Biren Singh	**Purpose** - To solve the issues of home delivery of fresh vegetables and also to ensure the availability of fresh vegetables for day-to-day consumption and reduce the distress sale of farm produce during the pandemic. The application was introduced by the **Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA)**, Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur.
HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) Covid App	Nitish Kumar	**Mobile app** - "HIT (Home Isolation Tracking) Covid App", **Developed by** - Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (BELTRON). **Launched by** - Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, **Purpose** - To monitor and track the COVID-19 patients who are in home isolation across Bihar on a regular basis.
Jagrut Tripura	Biplab Kumar Deb	**Mobile app** - "Jagrut Tripura", **Developed by** - EasyGov, a Jio Group company **Launched by** - Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb **Purpose** - People able to know about various Central Government and State Government Schemes and can avail the scheme if they are eligible.
Chatboat App	Hemant Soren	Hemant Soren Chief Minister of Jharkhand launched the App and Website which enables people to book a hospital bed online. **Mobile App and Website name** - 'Amrit Vahini. **"Chatboat App"** was also launched by Jharkhand CM to provide all the information related to coronavirus.
MCA21 V3.0	Anurag Singh Thakur	**Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Anurag Singh Thakur virtually launched** the 1st phase of the 'Ministry of Corporate Affairs 21 Version 3.0 (MCA21 V3.0)' portal. MCA21 V3.0 portal is being updated in two phases. ✓ The first phase of MCA21 V3.0 comprises a newly rebuilt website, new email services for MCA Officers, and 2 new modules e-Book and e-Consultation. The fully revamped MCA21 portal is expected to be launched within the FY 2021-22.

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Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation – Outpatient Department (SeHAT OPD)	Rajnath Singh	**Portal name** - 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation – Outpatient Department (SeHAT OPD)'(https://sehatopd.in/). ✓ **Launched by** - Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh **Objective** – It is an online medical consultation service for Armed Forces Personnel, veterans of Armed Forces and their families. It provides safe and structured video based clinical consultations between a doctor in a hospital and a patient in their home.
ACCR Portal (https://accr.ayush.gov.in/)	AYUSH Ministry	'Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR)' Portal and 3rd version of Ayush Sanjivani App were virtually launched by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy) Kiren Rijju. ✓ **ACCR Portal** (https://accr.ayush.gov.in/) will help in collecting information on how Ayush practitioners responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. **3rd version of the Ayush Sanjivani App** will facilitate the study and document the effectiveness of selected Ayush interventions in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.
DG NCC	Dr Ajay Kumar	**Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DG NCC) Mobile Training application Version 2.0** was launched by the Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar in New Delhi. **Aim of App** - To conduct countrywide online training to the NCC cadets and also to provide easy access to training material and to assist in carrying out training during the pandemic.
Akanksha	B S Yediyurappa	**'Akanksha'** ,an online portal launched by Karnataka Chief Minister(CM) B S Yediyurappa. ✓ **Aim** – It is to provide comprehensive details on all the Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) activities in the state and first of its kind initiative in India. **Created by** - Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, Karnataka in collaboration with UNDP's (United Nations Development Programme) Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC).
MHIM	N. Biren Singh	Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched **Manipur Home Isolation Management (MHIM) Mobile Application** for home isolation patients to monitor real time health data and information of Home Isolation COVID-19 patients. **App developed by** - Pentabyte Technologies LLP.

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ENVIRONMENT

Two New Species of Damselfly Discovered in Western Ghats, Maharashtra

Two New species –
"Euphaea thosegharensis" after the place Thoseghar and "Euphaea pseudodispar".
Published in - Journal of Threatened Taxa.
These new species are commonly known as torrent darts belonging to the genus Euphaea.

Xylophis deepaki: New species of Snake discovered in TamilNadu

Name of Species - Xylophis deepaki, kind of tiny snake
Found at - Western Ghats from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.
Published in - Vertebrate Zoology.

- It is named after Indian Herpetologist Deepak Veerappan to honour his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.
- The common name of the new species is Deepak's wood snake.

Crocidura Narcondamica: New Shrew Species Discovered

Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientists have discovered a white-toothed shrew, a new species of insectivorous mammal from Narcondam Island (volcanic island) of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands
Named of species - Crocidura narcondamica (Soricidae: Eulipotyphla) and it is named after the locality, Narcondam Island.

Two dung eating beetle species discovered from Maharashtra

Name of Species - Bolboceras bopdevense (11.46mm in length) and Bolboceras trimbakense (12.39mm in length)
Found at - Pune's Bopdev ghat and Trimbakeshwar in Nashik respectively, Maharashtra.
Characteristics - Beetles were deep brown in colour and had distinct horns growing on their face.

New Species of Bryophyte Discovered in Kerala

Species name - Bryocrumia malabarica,named after Malabar region where it was spotted
Published in - Acta Botanica Hungarica
Location - Malabar Wildlife sanctuary along the Western Ghats in Kerala.
Discovered by – Botanist team led by Manju C Nair
Bryocrumia malabarica has closely arranged leaves with distinct tricostate, ovate rounded to truncate leaves and an inconspicuous central strand in the stem cross-section.

Five Deeps Expedition measures Extreme Depths of World's 5 Oceans

Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans – Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic & Southern ocean (also known as Antarctic ocean).The Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world. 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the Horizon Deep (10, 816 m) in the Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.

Subdoluseps nilgiriensis: New Species of Asian Gracile Skink Discovered

Species name - Subdoluseps nilgiriensis, a new species of Asian gracile skink

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Location - Nilgiri Hills (Western Ghats) Tamil Nadu and **Published in** - Zootaxa
Discovered by – Herpetologists who gathered for the South Asian Reptile Red List Assessment organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature(**IUCN)**.
Features - New species has a slender, small-sized body of about 7 cm and sandy brown in colour.

Cyclone Tauktae makes Landfall in Gujarat

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the 'extremely severe cyclonic storm' – 'Tauktae' made landfall in the Saurashtra region of
Gujarat. The cyclone originated from the Arabian Sea. The name 'Tauktae' for the cyclone has been given by Myanmar, It means 'gecko', a highly vocal lizard in Burmese dialect.

New Species of Racer Snake Discovered in Tamil Nadu

Species name - Platyceps Josephi, a new species of racer snake.
Published in - Vertebrate Zoology. **Location -** Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu ,
The new species Platyceps josephi is named after late Herpetologist Naveen Joseph. New species should be considered a species in the Vulnerable category according to the IUCN criteria.

New Species of the African Violet plant Discovered in Northeast India

Species name - Didymocarpus vickifunkiae , new species of the African Violet plant.
Published in - Systematic Botany, **Location –** Mizoram, Northeast India and adjacent areas in Myanmar.
The new species is named after the late Dr. Vicki Ann Funk, a renowned Botanist of Smithsonian Institute, United States.

World's largest iceberg named A-76 breaks off from Antarctica

A **huge iceberg named A-76** has become the world's largest iceberg, which has broken off from western Antarctica into the Weddell Sea. It measures around 170 km long and 25 km wide, with an area of 4,320 sq km. It was spotted by the British Antarctic Survey and confirmed by using images from the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission satellite of European Space Agency(ESA).

Cyclone Yaas makes Landfall in South of Balasore, Odisha

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated that the '**very severe cyclonic storm' – Yaas** made landfall south of the Balasore region of Odisha. The cyclone originated from the Bay of Bengal. As the cyclone names are given by countries on a rotational basis, the name 'Yaas' for the cyclone has been given by Oman. Yaas is a Persian language and it means Jasmin.

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GA Questions Asked in Exams

- GA Questions asked in RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 – Jan 30
- GA Questions asked in SBI PO Mains 2021 – Jan 29
- SBI Clerk Mains 2020
- IBPS RRB Officer Scale II GBO Exam 2020
- RBI Assistant Mains 2020
- GA Questions Asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2020 – 90% Questions Covered by AC
- GA Questions asked in SBI PO 2019 Main Exam
- GA Questions asked in SBI Clerk Main Exam 2019
- GA Questions asked in IBPS PO Main Exam 2019
- GA Questions asked in RBI Grade B Prelims Exam 2019
- GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam 2019
- GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB PO Mains Exam 2019

All The Best for Your Exams!!!

Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed

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